

NATO welcomes arms cuts

BRUSSELS (AP) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) welcomed plans for military cuts and would like to see such reductions in the East-West conventional forces, an official of the Western alliance said Tuesday. Robin Stafford, a spokesman for the NATO, said: "There is a great asymmetry in NATO-Warsaw Pact conventional forces, and anything that reduces this imbalance is welcome. But there is still a long way to go before a balance at reduced level is achieved. This is the purpose of the talks about to begin in Vienna." The NATO nations are scheduled to begin negotiations in March with the seven Warsaw Pact states on reducing conventional arms in Europe. The Western alliance, consisting of the Soviet and their allies have a huge superiority in conventional, or non-nuclear, forces in Europe. The alliance wants the East bloc to make much greater reductions in their arms to bring the two sides to rough equality.

Jordan Times

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Bush seeks help from lawmakers

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bush, searching for ways to deal with the budget deficit, gave legislative leaders an overview of his agenda Tuesday as the White House sought to dampen the new administration's first controversy. The flag was started by a report that Dr. Louis Sullivan, Bush's nominee to be health secretary, was out of step with the president on the issue of abortion. "There's only one view — the president's view," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said, referring to Bush's statement to anti-abortion groups Monday that he hoped the supreme court would overturn a 1973 decision legalising abortion. The New York Times reported Tuesday that Sullivan, Bush's only black cabinet nominee, had told lawmakers that he does not want the decision reversed. Sullivan reportedly said that he opposes public funding of abortion, but supports a woman's right to have the procedure. Sullivan was almost passed over for Bush's cabinet last month when questions arose about his views on the emotional issue, but Fitzwater said Bush had no regrets about naming him and would stand behind the nomination. Top Senate Republicans said they expected Sullivan to be confirmed.

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King begins Saudi visit for talks on Arab issues

DAMMAM (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday began a working visit to Saudi Arabia for talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz on the latest developments and issues of mutual concern to the Arab World.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the visit comes within the framework of the constant consultations and coordination between the two Arab leaders.

The King was received upon arrival by King Fahd, Saudi Defence and Aviation Minister, Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, Eastern Province Governor Prince Mohammad Ibn Fahd, Prince Sultan, Ibn Salman, cabinet

members, senior civil and military officials, the Saudi ambassador to Jordan and the Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

King Hussein is accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and the King's special advisor Amer Khamash.

The King was seen off upon

departure from Amman by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, who was earlier sworn in as Regent, the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Cabinet members, senior civil and military officials as well as the Saudi charge d'affaires in Amman.

Following the welcoming ceremony, King Hussein and King Fahd drove to the nearby Abdul Aziz air base where they watched a flypast by Saudi air force jets.

Reports here said the two leaders' talks were expected to cover the latest developments in the Middle East and the Arab and international scenes.



His Majesty King Hussein with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia in Dhahran Tuesday (photo above). His Majesty is seen off upon departure from Amman earlier Tuesday by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein (Petra photos)



Downtown street realignment plan approved Rifai reviews municipal efforts, pledges support

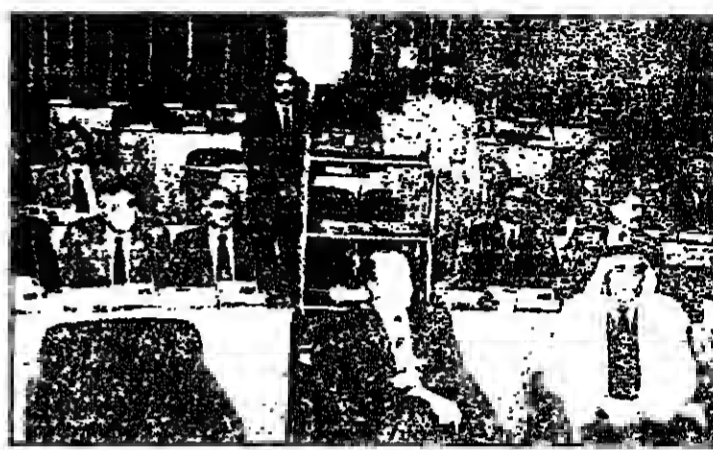
AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has voiced the government's support for Greater Amman Municipality and appreciation for its efforts to improve conditions and services in the capital and achievements over the past few years.

The prime minister was speaking at a meeting held Monday evening at the municipality building to discuss general plans to develop the central districts of Amman and to improve road and street networks and provide essential services and utilities.

Any municipal project of this nature should take into account public interests, and the municipality must ensure the rights of other parties, reduce to a minimum negative material or moral effects that such projects might cause and to seek to implement those projects at the lowest possible cost, the prime minister said.

Rifai underlined the importance of the ongoing process of developing the Greater Amman region, and said that the municipality must be careful to opt for appropriate alternative schemes and must make allocations to pay compensation not only to owners of real estate and other property but also to those who stand to lose as a result of implementing municipal projects.

At the outset of the meeting, Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh presented a briefing on the problems which the municipality encounters in the course of de-



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, several members of the Cabinet and senior officials Monday attend a meeting where a review was made of Greater Amman Municipality services and plans (Petra photo)

veloping the central districts of Amman which, he said, are congested with vehicles and pedestrians since the area is the central shopping place of the capital. The mayor also presented the municipality's complaints over narrow pavements, the pollution of the atmosphere in downtown, the lack of proper services for Amman residents, the difficulty in draining rain water, the presence of craft workshops and warehouses in great numbers and the lack of tourist facilities.

Rawabdeh presented to the meeting five proposals to solve problems. The plans should be carried out in stages because, such development is costly and requires a long time to carry out.

Rawabdeh said the municipality proposes linking Rida and Saqi Al Sail streets, widening Shamsouh street and linking it with King Ghazi Street and assigning Basman Street for service cars.

The plan, he said, entails enlarging the streets in question and widening pavement for pedestrians. Such a solution can help reduce congestion and ease the flow of cars and traffic into and out of the central districts of the capital, Rawabdeh noted.

Following general discussions at Monday's meeting, a consensus emerged on the need for

(Continued on page 2)

Rabin considers new anti-uprising tactics

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday he was considering barring Palestinians who took part in protests from working in Israel.

He told members of a parliamentary committee that Palestinians earned some \$600 million a year from jobs in Israel.

"We are treating it as a privilege, not a right," participants at the meeting of the foreign affairs and defence committee quoted Rabin as saying.

About 105,000 Palestinians are employed in Israel, more

than half of them unregistered, according to the Labour Ministry.

Responding to criticism of the army's newly-relaxed criteria for firing at protesters, which has led to record casualties, Rabin told parliamentarians that troops must order "suspects" to halt and then fire at the lower part of the body if they disobeyed.

Palestinian sources said troops shot and wounded at least seven protesters, including two women and a 12-year-old boy, in the Gaza Strip as businesses throughout the occupied territories closed Tuesday.

The strike was called by the uprising's clandestine leadership in protest at the demolition of the homes of Palestinian activists.

Soldiers shot dead a Palestinian teenager in the West Bank village of Halhul overnight and wounded another.

At least 376 Palestinians have died in the 13-month Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A senior officer told Israel radio the army was having problems achieving its goals in tackling the unrest.

"This is a confrontation in special circumstances and we have to find the correct goals,

the right processes and means because there is almost no situation in which we cannot succeed," said Major-General Moshe Bar-Kochba, an adviser to the army chief of staff.

"This is not a situation with which we have to live," Bar-Kochba said. "We will give consideration to the right answer in discussions and exchanges. It is possible to end this tough struggle successfully."

He was speaking amid newspaper reports that senior officers were pessimistic over the army's ability to end the uprising.

The socialist Al Hamishmar

and Labour Party-affiliated Davar dailies quoted unnamed senior officers as predicting the uprising would continue through this year and possibly worsen.

"According to their analysis, there is no solution to the intifada by military means," Davar said in its lead article. "Their assessment is that current methods of deploying forces are optimal and there is no way of getting more out of the forces in the field."

Israel's Shin Bet service meanwhile arrested dozens of Palestinians suspected of belonging to the "Palestinian (Continued on page 2)

LAST-MINUTE NEWS

3 SLA militiamen killed in blast

TYRE (AP) — Three Israeli-armed Lebanese militiamen were killed and four others wounded when a bomb went off under their vehicle as they were patrolling in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon Tuesday, police said. They said a mine was detonated under an American-made armoured personnel carrier of the South Lebanese Army (SLA) at mid-day near the village of Kantara, 26 kilometres east of the southern port of Tyre. Police said the SLA established by shelling nearby Kabriha village with mortars and artillery for two consecutive hours.

EEC seeks PLO reactions

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Economic Community (EEC) foreign ministers will seek Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's reactions to possible openings in the Middle East peace process, according to Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez, Spain's foreign minister. The PLO leader is due to visit Madrid Jan. 26 and 27 to hold talks with EEC foreign ministers. Ordóñez said that "possibilities of openings in this (peace) process" had appeared during talks he held with the Israeli leadership Jan. 15 which he described as being "extremely useful."

Ramadan in Rome for economic talks

ROME (R) — Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan arrived Tuesday for talks expected to be dominated by economic issues arising from the Iran-Iraq war. Ramadan, accompanied by Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Suleih, would make "detailed examination of bilateral economic relations," an official Italian statement said.

UAE president in Pakistan

KARACHI (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Al Nahayan, a friend of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, met Tuesday with the late prime minister's daughter, Pakistan's new head of government. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto greeted Sheikh Zayed at a VIP lounge at Karachi airport, Pakistani officials said. It was Sheikh Zayed's first meeting with Bhutto since she took office in December.

Tutu urges Bush to scrap policy

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Desmond Tutu, challenging President George Bush to extend his vision of a "kindler, gentler" America, urged him to reverse U.S. policy towards South Africa. Bush's domestic vision cannot be accompanied by "a lack of compassion for victims of injustice and oppression in other parts of the world," Tutu said. The Anglican archbishop of Cape Town urged Bush to scrap the Ronald Reagan doctrine of "constructive engagement" and consider economic sanctions against the South African government.

Benin issues shoot-on-sight orders

PORTO NOVO, Benin (R) — Benin has ordered police and troops to open fire without warning on demonstrators after two security officers were shot to death in riots, residents said Tuesday. They said a number of demonstrators, mostly young people, were slightly injured Monday during widespread rioting in Porto Novo, a city of 150,000 people near the Nigerian border. The government of President Mathieu Kérékou gave no casualty toll but pledged to maintain law and order and pay cost in the West African state. Witnesses said students and civil servants shouting anti-government slogans went on strike Monday morning and ransacked public buildings.

Damascus talks reportedly near Amal-Hizbollah truce

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — President Hafez Al Assad conferred with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati Tuesday, as Syrian-Iranian efforts to end fighting between Amal and Hizbollah militias in Lebanon continued for the third day.

Hussein Musavi, a leader of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah, said after the meeting that an agreement ending the clashes with Amal would be announced soon.

"Enlarged meetings will take place at the Syrian Foreign Ministry, following which a political agreement will be announced between Hizbollah and Amal," he said.

Earlier Tuesday, reports from Lebanon said four people were killed and 14 wounded during fresh clashes between the rival groups. These raised the casualty toll to at least 172 killed and 332 wounded since the latest spasm of fighting erupted Dec. 31.

The fighting began with artillery exchanges late Monday, shattering a four-day ceasefire, and continued with intermittent mortar exchanges early Tuesday.

Velayati, who has been in Damascus since Sunday, also attended a meeting with his Syrian counterpart Farouq Al Sharra and Hizbollah representatives Musavi and Sheikh Ibrahim Al Amin.

Sharra met separately with Amal leader Naibh Berri.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi as stating that Iran and Syria "are trying to bring closer together the views of Hizbollah and Amal, so that their differences can be resolved in a principled way."

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, further quoted him as saying that Iran and Syria "have complete agreement on solving the issues facing Lebanon and putting an end to the clashes."

Berri said Monday that Amal would not agree to a settlement until Hizbollah handed over the assassins of three Amal commanders.

Hizbollah's Musavi said a ceasefire would take effect once the meeting began later Tuesday.

Hizbollah had already unilaterally halted hostilities and would open fire only in self-defence, he said.

"There will be three-party meetings and four-party meetings that will end with a comprehensive political agreement between Amal and Hizbollah," the Hizbollah leader said.

"This was a result of goodwill efforts exerted by all, especially following the meeting between President Assad and brother Velayati."

"Both parties were keen to put an end to the problem and reach a political agreement. This was stressed by President Assad," Musavi said.

Musavi said the militias would end propaganda campaigns against each other, exchange prisoners and pledge to observe agreed limits on their political activity in Lebanon.

He made no mention of the demand by Amal that Hizbollah hand over those responsible for killing three of its members in Beirut last September.

More landslides feared in quake-hit Tajikistan

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Residents of earthquake-stricken Soviet Tajikistan braced themselves for more landslides Tuesday as authorities there said a wall of mud which engulfed mountain villages was still moving, hampering rescue efforts.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda said that aftershocks from Monday's quake, which left at least 1,000 people feared buried alive by the mud, could cause more landslides.

It said a thaw in the Central Asian republic had softened the ground just before the quake, which struck less than two months after a devastating tremor in Soviet Armenia.

The quake triggered an eight-kilometre wide landslide of mud and sand that crashed into several mountain villages near the Afghan border. More than 400

houses were destroyed, many of them clay structures which could not withstand the impact.

"Because of the tremors the soil swooped on the villages in a huge mass," Pravda said. "There is a danger of new landslides in the area if there are more tremors."

"Everything is flooded with liquid earth which is still moving, that's why the rescue work is difficult," A. Shein, a Tajik regional government official, was quoted as saying in the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda.

At its epicentre 50 kilometres southwest of the Tajik capital of Dushanbe, the quake reached seven points on the 12-point Soviet scale — three points less than the Dec. 7 tremor which killed 25,000 people in Armenia.

Authorities said they doubted rescuers would find many survivors

from Monday's earthquake.

"There is little hope (of finding survivors) because of the flood of dirt and mud," said Erkin Kasyrov, a spokesman for the foreign ministry in Tajikistan. "But while there is any hope, the rescuers will keep working."

Vitaly Zhukov, deputy head of the republic's official news agency, said 11 people died overnight in Dushanbe hospitals.

Pravda said heavy snows followed by a thaw saturated the Babatag hills with moisture, making the area prone to mudslides.

The hills overlook the devastated villages of Sharora, Okuli-Bolo and Okuli-Poye, which were buried in mud.

The newspaper said past experience had shown the Soviet Union is careless in its building techniques, especially in rural (Continued on page 2)

U.N. trims Namibia operation

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar bowed to budget concerns Tuesday and cut the Namibia peacekeeping force to 4,650 troops for the U.N.'s costliest mission, estimated at \$416 million.

Black African nations and non-aligned countries have clashed for weeks with the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China over the size and cost of the force.

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and non-aligned countries insisted on having at least 7,500 troops dispatched, as indicated in the original 1978 Security Council plan for Namibia's independence.

But the five permanent members of the Security Council, who together pay 85 per cent of all peacekeeping costs, objected to the projected \$700-million cost of sending that many troops.

Perez de Cuellar said in a report to the Security Council that the authorised upper limit for the military component would remain at 7,500, the number proposed in the 10-year-old council resolution that set terms for Namibian independence.

But he said at this stage he would seek a budget from the General Assembly only for 4,650 troops "consisting of three enlarged infantry battalions, 30 military observers, about 1,700 logistic troops and headquarters staff of about 100, all ranks."

The secretary-general said three enlarged infantry battalions, each averaging 850 of all ranks, would be deployed initially, with the other battalions being held in reserve.

The African members pressed for a larger operation. A week ago the president of the South West Africa Peoples Organisation (SWAPO), Sam Nujoma, who hopes to be the first head of state of an independent Namibia, said the force should be increased beyond 7,500 troops.

Charging that South Africa was trying to influence U.N.-supervised elections in the territory and was building up its own military force there, Nujoma said 15,000 U.N. troops might not be too many to deal with the situation.

Iraq releases POWs; U.N. revives bid

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq sent home 124 Iranian prisoners Tuesday, completing the first return of Gulf war captives since November.

A U.N. envoy meanwhile arrived in Tehran seeking to revive stalled peace talks and met senior Iranian leaders.

Red Cross sources said the yellow-uniformed Iranians left Baghdad airport for Tehran on a chartered airliner, following 131 freed Moody in a unilateral release.

There was no immediate sign that Tehran will reciprocate and resume prisoner exchanges halted Nov. 27 amid deadlocked peace talks aimed at ending the eight-year-old war.

Tuesday's operation took place as the United Nations' chief mediator in the peace talks, Jan Eliasson, held talks with Iranian officials in Tehran, seeking to break the deadlock in the negotiations.

Iran and Iraq halted a Red Cross-sponsored exchange under which the two sides would free 1,158 disabled and ailing POWs, in November because of a dispute over the number of prisoners to be repatriated.

Only 155 Iraqis and 56 Iranians were freed before the exchange broke down.

The Red Cross has registered 50,182 Iraqi prisoners held by Iran and 19,284 Iranians in Iraqi hands. But U.N. and other officials estimate that the number could reach 100,000 held by both sides.

Tehran Radio said in a commentary monitored in Nicosia that the responsibility of achieving progress in the stalled negotiations rests with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The radio said Eliasson, Sweden's U.N. ambassador and Perez de Cuellar's special envoy, met with Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hussein Lavasani and discussed ways to end the impasse in the negotiations.

Tehran Radio said Eliasson would seek to fix a date for resumption of the peace meetings adjourned since Nov. 11.

But the radio said the key part of his mission was in Baghdad, where he is expected to arrive Friday, and his talks with Iraqi officials would show whether the impasse could be broken.

Bhutto controversy ends with court order

ISLAMABAD (R) — The first major controversy of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's rule ended Tuesday when a provincial official declined to appeal a court decision that went against one of her allies.

A spokesman for the Baluchistan government said it would not appeal against a court order Monday that restored the dissolved provincial assembly.

The assembly was suddenly dissolved last month and the opposition charged that Bhutto had conspired to keep an ally in power. Bhutto rejected the accusations.

Four judges unanimously agreed that the dissolution of the legislature in Pakistan's largest but least populated province was unconstitutional and was done without lawful authority.

Baluchistan's advocate general filed an application to suspend the order and leave to appeal to the supreme court. He reversed that decision Tuesday saying he had no intention of filing an appeal.

The desert province bordering Iran and Afghanistan has been governed by a caretaker chief minister since Dec. 22, one week after Governor Mohammad

Musa dissolved the assembly on the binding advice of Chief Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali.

The affair, which broke out two weeks after Bhutto came to power following 11 years of military rule, sparked protest strikes in the Baluchistan capital, Quetta.

A diplomatic source said the court order and the absence of appeal showed that "the rule of law is at work and a neutral body exists that takes difficult decisions."

Bhutto had advised the opposition to take the matter to court instead of making accusations of conspiracy.

Last month, Bhutto, 35, said the dissolution was constitutional but said her Pakistan People's Party would not interfere. Political analysts said the dissolution saved Jamali, whose coalition included Bhutto's party, from losing a vote of confidence.

Bhutto rejected accusations by the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance that she conspired to keep Jamali in power. She said neither Musa nor Jamali had consulted the federal government or informed it at the time of dissolution.

Heavy Soviet activity fuels speculations of final Afghan pullout

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Heavy military ground and air traffic around Kabul indicates the final Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan is in full swing, Western diplomats said Tuesday, as new fighting erupted in several regions.

Afghan communist forces and rebels were fighting intensely in northern Kunduz province, and in Nangarhar and Kandahar provinces to the east, said the diplomats, speaking to the AP in Islamabad on condition they not be identified further.

They said the current pace of the Soviet withdrawal indicated nearly all Soviet troops would be out of Afghanistan by the end of January, ahead of the Feb. 15 deadline set in a U.N.-brokered agreement signed last spring by Moscow.

One source, quoting Afghan officials and East European diplomats, said that a small Soviet force, possibly a single paratrooper battalion, might remain until Feb. 15.

Despite the diplomatic speculation, Major-General Lev Serebrov, a member of the Soviet military command in Kabul, told Western journalists there Sunday that the final phase of the nine-month pullout had not yet begun. He said that the hundreds of fully equipped Soviet soldiers observed boarding military transport planes at Kabul airport this month were merely taking part in

a normal two-year troop rotation. Western diplomats said, however, that numerous Soviet armoured columns were seen moving north on the Salang Road, the main route to the Soviet border, during the past week.

"It is clear evidence that troops are being withdrawn from Kabul," said one source.

Another source said 52 Ilyushin-76 military transports were seen taking off and landing at Kabul airport during the week of Jan. 16-22, triple the normal rate and 12 more than reported the previous week.

Some of the air traffic was related to the withdrawal, and some appeared to be part of a Soviet effort to resupply the capital with desperately needed food and fuel, the diplomats said.

Half of an estimated 100,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan left the country between May 15 and Aug. 15, 1988, in accordance with the U.N. agreement.

Diplomats said their reports indicated about 15,000 troops had withdrawn from the Kabul area in the last month, and that another 15,000 remain.

Diplomats quoted by Reuters said Afghans had been fighting each other for food in Kabul, hoarding and looting shops and an army sergeant was shot dead in an argument over bread.

The diplomatic sources said queues for food and fuel in the Afghan capital reached record levels early last week but were shorter by the weekend after the arrival of supplies from the Soviet Union.

"A member of a local militia shot and killed an army sergeant following an argument over how much bread the militiamen were entitled to buy," one of the sources said.

The diplomatic sources said Afghans also reported the death from cold of a child who had stood for several hours in a queue for bread.

The embassies of Britain and the United States last week told their citizens to leave Kabul and West Germany said it was withdrawing its representatives.

The sources said some of the supplies brought by air and road were doled out around the city by Soviet soldiers, but they were often swamped by people.

In a report from Kabul, the official Soviet news agency TASS said 1,000 tonnes of flour had been airlifted to the city by Tuesday, making it possible to "quickly overcome the food crisis in the city."



MASS ARRESTS — Israeli soldiers keep watch over a large group of arrested Palestinians lined up against a wall on a main street in Ramallah Sunday. As many as 100 Palestinians were believed to have been taken to various detention centres.

Doctor hits Israeli policy

LONDON (R) — An Israeli doctor said Monday morning that Palestinian children were effectively being condemned to death because they were denied treatment in Israeli hospitals.

Pediatrician Rochama Marton blamed the children's plight on Israeli government action, such as cuts in its medical budget for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip during the 13-month uprising.

At a news conference organised by Physicians for Children, a British group of doctors, Marton accused the Israeli occupation authorities of "impeding proper medical services as a tool of political pressure, and as a means of individual and collective punishment."

Out of 200 children currently suffering from cancer in the West Bank, half needed treatment in Israel since facilities in the West Bank were insufficient, she said.

"Israeli hospitals now hospitalise 20 of these cases, as opposed to 100 prior to the intifada. This literally means that the other 80 children are condemned to death," she said.

Marton is chairwoman of the Association of Israeli-Palestinian Physicians, set up last March to monitor unethical practices. "Prior to the intifada the civil administration in the West Bank allocated 31,000 hospitalisation days for the Palestinian population. This number has subsequently been reduced to 10,000," she said.

Bazargan pledges to build his party

NICOSIA (AP) — Former Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, leader of the country's token opposition, says he plans to build his tiny, much-harassed party into a national movement to challenge the political establishment, Iran's official news agency reported Tuesday.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, said that Bazargan told the English-language Tehran Times daily in his first interview in seven years that his freedom movement will also name a candidate in August's presidential election "if political conditions... are favourable."

"We will organise the party at all levels throughout the country so that we can present our plans to the people... who will give their verdict," he said.

"If that verdict is in our favour, we will naturally have the right to form a government," Bazargan

was quoted as saying. The remarks by the 81-year-old veteran politician, the first prime minister of the republic after the 1979 revolution, appeared to be highly optimistic considering the strength of the main factions in the Tehran hierarchy.

But the fact that Bazargan, who has been out in the cold for nine years, was given a public platform clearly sanctioned by the authorities underlined efforts by Iranian leaders to ease political restrictions following the August ceasefire in the war against Iraq.

His moderate Freedom Movement, a frequent critic of the Gulf war, is one of 28 groups which have applied to register as political parties under a Dec. 31 law approving the formation of political organisations, providing they do not conspire against the state.

Since Khomeini abolished the ruling Islamic Republic Party two



Mehdi Bazargan

years ago, the Freedom Movement has been the only recognised party in Iran. There are no official parties within the hierarchy, but there are several factions which revolve around leading figures which operate like parties. The new law is part of a post-war move toward liberalising Iran's political and social life, heavily restricted during the war.

Maghreb ministers seek compromise

TUNIS (R) — Ministers from five Maghreb countries met in Tunis Tuesday in search of a compromise on the proposed institutions for a united Maghreb.

The ministers from Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania are preparing for a second summit which they hope will push forward tentative steps to create a regional grouping similar to the European Economic Community (EEC).

The process started with a summit outside Algiers last June, the first such meeting since the five countries became independent in the 1950s and 1960s.

The next summit is expected to take place in the Moroccan city of Marrakech within weeks and the Tunis meeting will probably agree on the exact date.

Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, chairman of the Maghreb Higher Commission, told the opening session Tuesday that one of the documents on the agenda was a Moroccan proposal on the structures of the proposed Maghreb union.

Maghreb diplomats said this envisaged a council of heads of state, a council of ministers and other permanent institutions.

In closed session later Baccouche said Tunisia felt the five states should sign a treaty formalising Maghreb unity, the diplomats added.

The other delegations did not state their views before the lunch

break but the diplomats expected Libya to back the Tunisian idea while Morocco and Algeria would resist any steps beyond those in the Moroccan proposal.

"The structures are definitely going to be the main subject, but I'm sure we will find a compromise," one Maghreb ambassador told Reuters before the meeting began.

At the last meeting of the commission in Rabat in October, Algeria said it felt even Morocco's proposal was premature but Foreign Minister Boualem Besayeh has since taken charge of Maghreb affairs from Mohammed Cherif Messadia.

Messadia, head of the secretariat of the ruling National Liberation Front, lost his job in late October after riots swept Algiers and other cities.

Libya was previously alone in favouring an advanced form of political unity, a step towards rapid Arab unity, but Libyan officials have said they are flexible.

The diplomats said Tunisia had already drafted a treaty and had submitted the text to one of five subcommittees which met between July and October last year.

The other subcommittees, on economics, finance, security and education, had already prepared recommendations by the time of the Rabat meeting and there is little dispute about these.

Libya said to agree to Rabta inspection

LONDON (R) — Libyan authorities have agreed to allow independent experts to inspect a factory which the United States claims has been built to produce chemical weapons, a British delegation which visited Libya said Monday.

Opposition Labour Party Member of Parliament Ron Brown and Anthony Clayton, an associate at Edinburgh University's Centre for Human Ecology, travelled to Tripoli to ask the Libyans to permit such an inspection.

Libya says the plant at Rabta near Tripoli is intended to produce pharmaceuticals.

"Libyan authorities said they will allow chemical engineers to inspect the Rabta plant at an open day in March," Clayton told Reuters.

He and Brown received this assurance during an interview

with Mr. Muhtar, vice-coordinator of international affairs, at the Libyan Foreign Ministry.

Brown said: "It wouldn't just be a media show. Officials made it quite clear that experts would be allowed in."

Clayton said he believed the controversy would only be resolved by an inspection of qualified experts.

"We got a fairly unambiguous statement of intent," he added. "It remains to be seen what level of access they actually allow."

The Department of Chemical Engineering at Edinburgh University has offered to help provide a team of experts to visit the plant.

Brown said the names of scientists from Edinburgh would be submitted to the Libyan interests section of the Saudi Arabian embassy in London, which handles Anglo-Libyan relations.

Greek prosecutor shot dead

ATHENS (R) — Leftist urban guerrillas Monday shot dead a supreme court prosecutor in the third attack on Greek law officials this month.

The Greek cabinet was summoned to an emergency session Tuesday after two masked gunmen on a motorcycle pumped five bullets into Anastasios Venarhos, 61, outside his house in central Athens.

Pamphlets left at the scene Monday night's killing said Venarhos was shot by the extreme left-wing group "Revolutionary Organisation May First."

"Today's killing and the two previous attacks against law officials in a short period of time

must make us think of the motives and the aims they serve," Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu said in a statement.

A government spokesman said Papandreu would preside over emergency talks involving the ministers of defence, public order and justice and the chiefs of the police, intelligence and the defence staffs.

The shootings began Jan. 10 when state prosecutor Costas Androulidakis was hit by three bullets in the legs. He is still in a critical condition.

Another senior prosecutor, Panayotis Tarsoulas, was shot and wounded eight days later. Both attacks were claimed by

Greece's most notorious guerrilla group November 17.

November 17 said both men were "punished" because the judiciary shared responsibility with corrupt politicians for a series of financial scandals.

Police believe May First has close links with the November 17 guerrillas — and may even be the same group using different names.

May First said it shot Venarhos for supporting the extradition of an alleged member of the Red Brigades guerrilla organisation in Italy.

Greece turned down an Italian extradition request for Maurizio Folini in February 1987.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Somalia, Ethiopia seek to normalise ties

KUWAIT (AP) — Somalia and Ethiopia are pushing ahead to normalise relations, Somali Information Minister Abdul Rasheed Ahmad said Monday. "They have set up a ministers' committee for this purpose, and agreed to... withdraw military forces from the border area, exchange of prisoners of war and resume diplomatic relations," he told a news conference at the end of a three-day visit to Kuwait by Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre. Somalia and Ethiopia last year announced they were restoring diplomatic ties after an 11-year break and ending border disputes that have lasted more than a century. Ahmad said the agreements were working and "we hope more talks will take place in future to resolve some outstanding problems." He made no mention of the Eritrean rebels whom Somalia has supported in their fight for independence from Ethiopia.

Arrest ordered of Turk in kidney case

ISTANBUL (AP) — A court has ordered the arrest of a Turkish man who allegedly brokered the sale of kidneys for use in transplants at a London hospital, a public prosecutor said. Sait Erem told the AP that he sought Tunc Ay Kunter's arrest after details of the case were discussed Sunday evening on a nationwide Turkish television show. In the programme, an unidentified woman and a man said they each had sold one of their kidneys with the help of a middleman to recipients at the hospital. They named neither the hospital nor the middleman. One kidney was sold for 10 million Turkish lira (\$5,600), the other for six million Turkish lira (\$3,300), they said. The Istanbul daily Hurriyet had published the story earlier.

Ozal calls for unity, stability

ANKARA (R) Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, facing nationwide municipal elections in March, has called on Turks to preserve stability under a single-party government for the next decade. "Do not disrupt unity and stability. The time of coalitions is over. If we can continue this for another 10 years, Turkey will be among the five leading nations of the world," he said in a speech to municipal officials in Van, near the Iranian border, Monday

evening. Ozal, a conservative, said his Motherland Party would see out the remaining four years of its five-year mandate and asked people to opt for local governments that would work harmoniously with central government.

Police free W. German taken hostage

BREMEN (R) — West German police Monday disarmed a Turk who held a lawyer hostage for 10 hours and demanded a one million mark (\$550,000) ransom. Police said the 28-year-old kidnapper had entered the office of the lawyer, who was representing the man's father in a financial case, and taken him to his restaurant at gunpoint. Officials delivered the ransom and a written undertaking he would not be prosecuted. The man emerged in the early evening to collect the money, handed over his weapon to the lawyer and soon afterwards was overpowered by police.

Mousavi, Ramadan may visit Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi and Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan are likely to make separate visits to Turkey soon, Foreign Ministry sources said Monday. The sources said there were no dates or agendas yet for the visits, set tentatively for the second half of February. Turkey maintained good trade ties with Iran and Iraq during their eight-year Gulf war and is eyeing lucrative reconstruction contracts in both countries.

Two Libyans found dead in Athens

ATHENS (AP) — Police Monday ruled out any possibility of crime in the case of two Libyans found dead in their suburban Athens apartment. "We're sticking to the conclusion of the coroner that the two deaths were caused by breathing carbon monoxide... there is no evidence of murder," a police spokesman said. He identified the two Libyans as Samusi Al Huni, 45, a journalist and Mahmud Beled, 30, a photographer. Both Libyans worked for an Arab-language magazine published in Athens. "Huni and Beled were found dead Sunday in their apartment in the suburb of Tzitzifies," said the spokesman.

Rifai reviews municipal efforts

(Continued from page 1) change and for the municipality to take action to solve the problem. But different views were presented and proposals made at the meeting on the municipality plan which, according to initial estimates, will cost JD 4 million. The majority supported the plan and the prime minister gave his consent and directed the mayor to go ahead with its implementation.

Rabin considers new tactics

(Continued from page 1) Popular Army," the Israeli military command said. Military officials and Israel Radio said it was led by Fateh. The radio said that the main suspect, Abdul Fatah Hassan of Nablus, received weapons and money from Fateh and trained dozens of Palestinians for attacks against Israeli troops.

More landslides feared

(Continued from page 1) areas. But it did not specifically blame poor construction for any of the deaths in the area, located about 2,900 kilometres southeast of Moscow. Komsomolskaya Pravda said rescuers who rushed to the quake zone from Dushanbe Monday found eight people alive under the mud and unearthed 26 bodies.

Pravda said 104 people had been sent to hospital so far. Thousands of volunteers were using shovels to search for survivors as bulldozers, excavators and cranes arrived in the area. Soviet troops were also helping out.

West Germany and the United States have offered assistance and other countries are expected to follow suit, Pravda said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE	15:30	Koran
15:30	Programme review	
15:45	Children's programmes	
17:15	Programme on plants	
17:25	Out of World	
18:00	News summary in Arabic	
18:05	Cairo News Message	
18:15	Arabic series	
18:30	Local programme	
19:30	Common mistakes	
19:40	Programme review	
20:00	News in Arabic	
20:30	Arabic series	
21:30	Programme review	
21:40	Wrestling	
22:30	Varities programme	
23:00	News summary in Arabic	
23:10	Programme (cont.)	
PROGRAMME TWO	17:30	Champs Elysees

PRAYER TIMES

19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Don't wait up
21:10	Pancratia
22:00	News in English
22:20	The Four Minute Mile

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Association Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623266

WEATHER

Church of the Association Tel. 623541
Armenian Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 71331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772521
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
Evangelical Congregation Tel. 822605
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:	
Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Najjar	775050
Dr. Mahmoud Jabr	896691
Dr. Wa'el Kharabli	615033
Dr. Aswar Al Aghabawi	626296
First pharmacy	61912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Azema pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Blood Bank	6209093
Highway Police	775121
Traffic Police	6639091
Public Security Department	65000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints	605800

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/52
Khalidi Maternity J. Amn	642816
Abdullah Maternity J. Amn	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in \$/kg	
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MARKET PRICES

Maize, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsat	664171/4
Shamsat Hospital	669131
Shamsat Hospital	845845
Al-Musader Hospital	6672719
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	77101/3
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafel	775111/26
Queen Abla Hospital	891613/15
Queen Abla Hospital	8024059
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	09/983323
Zarqa National Hospital	09/991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	09/986732
Princess Beama Hospital	02/275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	02/272773
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital	02/247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	03/314111

MARKET PRICES

Apple	460 / 400
Banana	250 / 300
Banana (Mukannar)	300 / 250
Broad beans	700 / 600
Cabbage	150 / 100
Carrots	240 / 200
Cauliflower	480 / 400
Cucumbers	240 / 200
Dates	600 / 500
Eggplant	140 / 100
Celery	280 / 200
Grapefruit	170 / 120
Lemon	200 / 150
Marrow (large)	300 / 200
Marrow (small)	250 / 200
Orange (French)	320 / 300
Orange (Shamoun)	420 / 380
Orange (local)	250 / 220
Onion (dry)	220 / 180
Pepper (hot)	440 / 400
Pepper (sweet)	340 / 300
Potato	230 / 200
Spinach	150 / 100
Squash	250 / 200
Tomato	170 / 150

Queen Noor distributes diplomas to 101 teachers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday distributed diplomas to 101 elementary school teachers and teachers-in-training who have completed training courses in the use of drama to enhance the teaching process.

The training courses were conducted by the Queen Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) "theatre in education" programme, in cooperation with the Ministries of Education and Higher Education.

At the ceremony, the Queen, in a briefing on theatre in education by the project coordinator Lina Farah, said that it aims to create a rich, visual learning process in the service of specific educational objectives.

She said that the teachers were oriented on producing history and science-based plays with subjects contained in school textbooks to be acted in schools around Jordan.

The programme, she said, aims to facilitate and promote the learning process through drama which provides the means to express ideas and concepts, and can enable participants to utilise their skills and potentials.

The contents of the courses incorporated voice and speech,

rhythmic and creative movement and dance, improvisation, self expression and mime, physical education and its relation to drama, creative games, and dramatization of subjects in the curriculum.

NHF launched the theatre-in-education project in 1987 to expand the children's learning opportunities through the creative medium of drama and to promote the dramatic arts in Jordan in general. It is one of 25 NHF projects and programmes that aim to introduce new developmental criteria to assess and enhance the total quality of life in the individual and the community.

Greater Amman Director of Education Mohammad Bani Hani made a speech before the Queen paying tribute to her support for this vital project which, he said, contributes towards the achievement of the objectives of the first educational conference held in Amman in 1987.

Among those present at the ceremony were Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi, Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad and the teaching staff of Princess Alia School where the ceremony was held.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday presents a diploma to one of the teachers who participated in the training course on "theatre in education" at the Princess Alia School in Amman (Petra photo)

Greater Amman Municipality creates citizens' guidance bureau

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality Tuesday announced the creation of a citizens guidance bureau that will take charge of introducing improvements to services provided by the municipality to the public.

The announcement was made by Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh who said that the bureau will help speed up procedures concerning services and deal and settle complaints and problems pertaining to the municipality's general services.

The bureau will be headquartered at the Amman Municipality building but will have branches and offices in all the municipal districts, Rawabdeh said.

The bureau which commenced its duties Tuesday will also be authorised to take inquiries, respond to public questions and offer guidance to citizens on all matters related to procedures such as filling forms, following up

on citizens' businesses with the municipality and other related matters, Rawabdeh explained. He said that the bureau will be entrusted to receive and process proposals by citizens, distribute municipality announcements and other information, matters of

concern to the public, questionnaires in the course of collecting public opinion on services. Rawabdeh announced that Mahmoud Armouti will serve as the bureau's director in addition to his present job as director of the mayor's office.

Haj Hassan to discuss air transport in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan will go to Cairo Wednesday for talks on promoting air transport between Jordan and Egypt through their respective national airlines.

Haj Hassan will meet with Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Fuad Sultan and other officials with whom he will follow up the implementation of air transport accords endorsed

earlier by the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee.

The agency said that the minister will be accompanied on the visit by Royal Jordanian Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director Mahmoud Balqaz.

Jordan and Egypt currently maintain daily airlinks between Cairo and Amman through Egypt Air or Royal Jordanian.

Wastewater treatment plant to be set up in Jordan Valley

DEIR ALLA (Petra, J.T.) — A wastewater treatment plant will be set up and other measures will be taken immediately in the Jordan Valley region to help stem pollution to the environment and safeguard public health.

The decisions were taken at a meeting held here Tuesday under the chairmanship of Balqa Governor Mihem Al Khursha and attended by provincial governors, heads of local councils and other officials.

Specific instructions were worked out banning the dumping of waste from any source except in specific areas to be assigned for the purpose, and the local councils are to allocate funds for organising the spraying of pesticides, according to a statement issued at the end of the meeting.

The statement said that the

Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) will allot a piece of land on which to set up a plant for processing plastic waste, and that a special committee will be created to supervise the implementation of projects to safeguard public safety in the valley.

According to the statement the JVA will make plans with the Ministry of Public Works and Housing to lay sewerage networks and build housing estates for the non-Jordanian workers employed in the valley's agricultural projects.

Addressing the meeting, Khursha said the Jordan Valley residents complain from common flies and other insects, from the plastic and other waste and the absence of sanitary facilities for the workers.

He said that the area also lacks

proper facilities for vacationers and tourists, and urged local councils to help implement tourist projects.

The JVA, Khursha said, has already assigned nine areas to be exploited as public parks located between Adasieb in the north and the Dead Sea in the south.

The decisions followed a meeting held last month under the chairmanship of Her Majesty Queen Noor to review projects such as establishing national parks and serviced picnic areas in the Jordan Valley.

The meeting reviewed a draft law on the protection of the area from pollution resulting from the dumping of waste especially those left behind by vacationers and the problems of natural manure which attract flies and other insects.

Jordan, Egypt formally declare creation of lean meat production company

CAIRO (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan and Egypt have formally announced the creation of the Jordanian-Egyptian company for the production of lean meat and animal feed with a \$20 million capital to be set up in Egypt.

The announcement was made Monday by Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa who is currently leading Jordan's side to the general assembly meeting of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Investment and Development Company (holding company) which endorsed the project.

The holding company, Tabbaa said, will own 20 per cent of the project's capital, and the door will be open for Arab organisations and companies to own shares which will be offered for sale in the Arab World in the coming three months.

The project, which is to be set up west of Nubariya, between Cairo and Alexandria, will be set up on a 5,300 acres of land which will be exploited to produce fodder for the cows and sheep which will in turn provide lean meat for the consumers in Jordan and Egypt.

Tabbaa said that the project, which will entail using the most up to date equipment and facilities, involves the installation of an irrigation system, machinery to help produce huge amounts of cereals, animal feed for fattening livestock and setting up a plant for processing animal feed, the minister noted.

The project, he added, is expected to produce 14,000 tonnes of lean meat and 20,000 heads of sheep and cattle, as well as 45,000 tonnes of animal feed, 138 cubic metres of fertilisers, 30 tonnes of raw wool, and 1,400 tonnes of barley annually.

The project is expected to bring in revenues totalling 131 million Egyptian pounds every year.

Last week, the holding company's Director, Midhat Abdul Aziz, told a press conference in

Amman that the company will carry out the project to meet the demand on lean meat in Jordan and Egypt.

He said production was due to start towards the end of 1989 and estimated the annual demand in Egypt at 238,000 tonnes of lean meat, and at 41,000 tonnes in Jordan by 1995.

Tabbaa told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, correspondent in the Egyptian capital that the project's feasibility study, which was carried out by Jordanian and Egyptian technical teams, proved that the plan will be beneficial for both sides.

The general assembly convened here under the co-chairmanship of Tabbaa and Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah and it was attended by the holding company's board of directors, chaired by Dr. Fahd Al Azah.

According to Tabbaa, the meeting reviewed the company's achievements last year and future plans.

Makramallah was quoted as saying that the holding company which was established in January 1988, will carry out further projects to benefit the Egyptian and Jordanian national economies.

The decision to go ahead with the project in Egypt and the holding company's future projects are expected to come under scrutiny by the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee which is due to convene here Saturday.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Atef Sidki Tuesday received Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Nabih Al Nimer in Cairo and expressed his country's deep appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein's stands and his pride in



Hamdi Tabbaa

his role to bolster inter-Arab relations.

Nimer reviewed with Sidki an agenda for the Saturday meeting and developments in the Middle East region.

Tabbaa met in Cairo with Dr. Yusrri Mustafa, the Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade, to discuss bilateral cooperation in economic and trade fields.

The two ministers reviewed plans designed to increase the volume of trade exchange and to remove obstacles in the path of trade operations.

The implementation of a bilateral trade protocol that organises the work of the Jordanian and Egyptian trade centres in Cairo and Amman, and Jordan's cement shipments to Egypt were also reviewed at the meeting.

Later Tuesday the Jordanian delegation, comprising Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf, the ministry's economic cooperation and export promotion department director, Aqaba Region Authority president and representatives from the ministries of agriculture, tourism, transport and planning left Amman for Cairo to join Tabbaa, who will be chairing the Jordanian side to preparatory committee's meetings, due to start here Wednesday.

JUST science building to be completed in 1990

RAMTHA (Petra, J.T.) — The medical sciences building project being implemented by the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) is expected to be completed by the end of 1990, according to the director of the university's projects department.

He said that the buildings which will house the faculties of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and nursing were being set up on 80,000 square metres at the estimated cost of JD 14 million.

The department director also said that a teacher-student residential quarters project, which would accommodate 12,000 students and 58 flats for the teaching staff, is expected to be completed early next year.

He said that the residential quarters is expected to cost JD 4.4 million.

This project, he said, entails constructing eight buildings and their utilities, together with courts for sports activities, such as volleyball, basketball, tennis and other facilities, and is being set up on 40,000-square-metres.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

HAMMOURI LEAVES FOR SENEGAL: Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri left Amman Tuesday for Dakar, Senegal, to take part in the first meeting by Islamic ministers of culture. The several-day meeting will review reports on activities by Islamic universities and cultural centres existing in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) countries, according to the minister. Another important point to be discussed, he said, is studying a calendar for Islamic feasts. He said the ministers will discuss the establishment of an international Islamic women's organisation and a project for streamlining cultural policies in the Islamic World. (Petra)

ANANI BRIEFS KUWAITI TEAM: Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Jawad Al Anani Tuesday praised Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations, and said that the RSS is linked with Kuwait's research centres and is closely cooperating with them in solar power projects. Anani was speaking at a meeting with a visiting delegation from the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance whom he briefed on the RSS's activities. The delegation, toured the RSS departments and were briefed on their activities and programmes. (Petra)

LECTURE ON ARAB MUSIC: A lecture entitled "an old musical suite" (wasleh) was presented by musician Yusra Armita at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman. Instructors and students of the Arab music section at the National Music Conservatory demonstrated musical selections from the lecture of Armita during the event. (J.T.)

QATARNEH VISITS RUSSAIFA: Zarga Governor Eid Qatarnah Tuesday made an inspection tour of Russaifa and Hittin camp, where he discussed with the citizens the problems facing them. Qatarnah also met with residents of Dahrjiah neighbourhood and outlined the importance of organising the random construction areas, and informed them of the plan to convert this neighbourhood into a well organised area, where housing units, schools and health centres will be set up. (Petra)

JERASH STUDENT RACE: A total of 60 students from Jerash district schools Tuesday took part in an eight kilometre race, organised by Jerash District Education Department for students from preparatory and secondary schools. (Petra)

COURSES FOR THIBAN LADIES: A total of 30 ladies from Thiban sub-district Tuesday enrolled in training courses on sewing, typing and weaving, organised by Thiban Community Development Centre. Also in Thiban a month-long health education programme was organised Tuesday by Thiban community development centre in cooperation with the health centre. (Petra)

SKIN DISEASES: President of the Jordanian Dermatologists Association Mamdouh Qutob Tuesday said that leprosy and psoriasis (a non-contagious skin disease) are two different, chronic diseases and that international researches have shown that they are not caused by a virus nor transmitted by infection. However heredity could be one of the causes for them. Commenting on the confusion between these two skin diseases and linking them with the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Qutob said the two diseases can be treated by external treatment ointments which have proved successful and effective in many cases. After disappearing for a long time following the treatment, the two diseases might appear again. However, he noted, the diseases do not cause death nor have any serious internal complications, and therefore there is no scientific basis for linking them with AIDS, since they are not transmitted by infection, nor do they cause death.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- * A plastic art exhibition by Egyptian artist Yassin Ibrahim Mohammed at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- * An exhibition of photographic works by Wols (Otto Wolfgang Schenk) at the Goethe Institute.
- * The Jordanian plastic art season which includes a general exhibition of works by Jordanian artists at the Professional Association Complex in Irbid.
- * An art exhibition by artist Misa Erder at the Petra Bank Gallery.

CONCERT

- * A concert by a group of Turkish musicians, the Anatolian String Trio, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.



University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday holds talks with the visiting Chinese University of Tongji President.

Majali briefs Chinese team on higher education in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday conferred with the visiting President of the Chinese University of Tongji, Chen Che, and his accompanying delegation on the developments of the higher education in Jordan, the University of Jordan's achievements and its role in providing the Jordanian and Arab societies with qualified and well-trained cadres in various fields.

The Chinese visitor praised the advanced level of the university and its remarkable achievements. The Chinese delegation earlier Tuesday visited the language centre where they were briefed by Dr. Mohammad Anani on the educational programmes offered by the centre and the methods

used in teaching Arabic and English languages, in addition to methods of teaching Arabic for foreigners.

The delegation visited the Students Affairs Department where they inspected its various sections, including the international hall, which includes corners for folkloric and cultural information about various countries, and a permanent art exhibition where the outstanding art works by students are displayed. They also visited the antiquities and popular life museum.

objectives and its future aspirations and plans, saying that it intends to expand in the fields of higher education and to direct special attention to scientific research.

Majali reviewed with the visiting delegation the university's

Erder's works show yearning for detail

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It is always fascinating to see what aspects of Jordan intrigue and stimulate other people, especially if those people are artists. In the case of the latter it is usually the everchanging landscape of the country which inspires them. For Melissa (Misa) Erder however it is more, or perhaps we should say less than that, for what interests this artist are the tiny details, the rocks, the stones, the plants, the insects and all those small but undeniable indications that someone has been here before — a long, long time before.

Erder has chosen to portray Jordan in pastel colours, a media that represents a switch for the artist from acrylics and one through which it is normally difficult to capture the colours of Jordan. If not used with care the unique and often surprising richness and depth that can be achieved with pastels can be over-ride the soft and endlessly subtle colours of the local landscapes. Erder mostly avoids this mistake and her colours are good especially in the works where she zooms in on a beetle or a piece of dried scrub.

Erder's close-ups of a patch of ground skillfully and cleverly achieve a careful balance between spontaneity and literal depiction. In light tones accentuated by quick dark lines she draws our attention to the riches beneath our feet — the ubi-

quitous ant, the texture of a rock, the hard brittle dryness of a sun-baked branch and most fascinating of all the marks, letters, drawings and scratches made by man many millennia ago.

Erder treats palm trees in the same way, zooming in on their branches, paying special attention to the different colours of the fronts and the endless patterns they make with themselves and with the light that sparkles through them.

ART REVIEW

When Erder turns her attention to the wider scenes, it is the movement in the landscape that she sees and captures. This is best seen in the diptych of the Dead Sea. Between the stillness of two solid rocks the path rushes away down from us leading our eye across to the blue serenity of the water whose distant horizon fades imperceptibly into the sky. Much in the same way, Erder has caught the dramatic drop of the sandy cliffs that line the valley of Wadi Seer. The precipitous mountainsides seem to fall down the paper, the speed and energy of this fall only arrested by the man-made caves hewn in antiquity.

Miss Erder who was born in Turkey in 1966 is a graduate of Visual Arts from Bowdoin College. Her work has been exhibited in Lacoste, France and at the Kresge Gallery in Brunswick, Maine. Miss Erder plans to return to the United States later



One of the paintings by Misa Erder currently on display this year to continue her studies. Her present exhibition runs until Jan. 30.

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Vienna accord fosters disarmament hopes, new division of Europe

By Carol J. Williams
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — While the landmark human rights and security accord approved by 35 nations has narrowed the gap between East and West, it also has widened fractures within Europe's two military alliances. The Vienna agreement promising broader individual freedoms and mandating new arms-reduction talks has been praised by both superpowers as a bellwether for future disarmament successes. Yet the very success of the 27-month conference, which ended Thursday, has stirred within the military alliances led by the United States and the Soviet Union.

European members of the 14-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation are showing increasing resistance to U.S. views of how disarmament should proceed on their continent.

And the Socialist allies in the Warsaw Pact have shown markedly different degrees of commitment to the human rights protections spelled out in the Vienna accord.

It remains to be seen whether the internal divisions will widen to cause disabling rifts within the alliances, and much will depend on the superpower leaders.

Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's reforms face widespread resistance at home, as well as in some East European nations, because of poor and unimproving living conditions and fears the East bloc might hargain away its military might.

W. European pressure

U.S. President George Bush is expected to continue the policies of his predecessor, Ronald Reagan. But mounting pressure from European allies could eventually shake Washington from its dominant role in NATO and re-

sult in a disarmament approach more receptive to Soviet overtures.

At the moment, Gorbachev desperately needs to cut arms spending to stabilise the Soviet economy and improve the living conditions of his people.

The Western allies are aware of the pressure faced by the Soviet leader, as well as the consequences for arms control if Gorbachev succumbs to conservative opponents in the Kremlin.

U.S. diplomats concede the Vienna conference succeeded primarily because of the Soviet Union's political reforms.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said in Washington earlier this month that the Kremlin's release of political prisoners, easing of emigration constraints and more tolerant policies on free speech and religious practice changed the U.S. position on a proposed human rights conference in Moscow.

Western nations had objected to holding the conference in Moscow because of the Soviet Union's human rights record. That dispute held up final agreement on the Vienna accord until earlier this month.

The Vienna meeting served as a followup to the historic 1975 Helsinki human rights agreement among the superpowers, Canada and all European nations except Albania.

The document approved last Sunday declares the right of all citizens to assemble, speak their minds, travel, emigrate and keep an eye on their government's compliance.

Further talks

It also sets out ambitious goals for better trade ties and environmental protection and institutes a new round of negotiations on reducing conventional armed forces in Europe, the CAFE

talks, to begin in Vienna on March 9.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, in Vienna for the closing session of the conference, said the Kremlin would fully disclose its count of troops and armaments in Europe before the start of the CAFE talks. Arguments and secrecy over existing conventional force strength have stymied the current negotiations since they began 15 years ago.

Asked why he was so confident the CAFE talks would be able to avoid the pitfalls of the older forum, Shevardnadze said the East and West military alliances are under increasing internal pressure to improve international relations.

"I have confidence that progress will be achieved because it's something our peoples want, and

their governments, if they are true governments, should express the will of the people," the Soviet official told reporters in Vienna.

In his speech Thursday, the closing day of the Vienna meeting, Shevardnadze announced that the Soviets would be unilaterally removing some of their short-range nuclear arms from Eastern Europe and called on NATO to negotiate the removal of its remaining European-based missiles with ranges of 500 kilometres or less.

NEWS ANALYSIS

All missiles of intermediate range are being withdrawn and dismantled under an accord signed between the superpowers in Washington in December 1987. And the U.S. and Soviet negotiators say they are making good progress on a pact to cut

deeply into their stockpiles of strategic nuclear weapons.

The U.S. government has repeatedly stated that it does not want to negotiate or remove short-range nuclear missiles until a Soviet advantage in conventional armed forces is reduced.

"There's not going to be anything left except the short-range," a senior U.S. diplomat commented, referring to the progress made and envisioned in removing medium- and long-range missiles from Europe. "If we want to keep the flexible response doctrine credible, I don't see any way we can negotiate these in the foreseeable future."

NATO's "flexible response doctrine" holds that the Western alliance must keep its nuclear weapons option until the Soviet advantage in troops, tanks, artillery and other conventional weapons is reduced.

Rift in NATO?

But West Germany and other NATO members have been chafing under that doctrine and other constraints on the pace of disarmament.

Stephen Ledogar, the U.S. ambassador to the CAFE talks, said Washington wants to see a Soviet reduction in conventional forces first. But he added, "I'm not trying to suggest there is no difference of opinion within the alliance."

Within the Warsaw Pact, the Soviet Union's planned pullouts are popular with the general public but problematic for the Communist leadership that have traditionally relied on Kremlin military backing.

Even more divisive to the Warsaw Pact is the question of human rights and the varying degrees of willingness among the Socialist allies to emulate the Kremlin's policies of glasnost, or greater frankness on selected social and political issues, and perestroika, or revamping the economy.

Hungary played a maverick role at the Vienna meeting, siding with Western positions long before the rest of the Communist countries and promising to review and revise all laws relating to individual freedoms.

Czechoslovakia made no such commitment, and Romania, claimed it had the right to exempt itself from provisions for international review of an individual nation's compliance with the accord.

In the first days after the agreement, police broke up demonstrations in East Germany, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia and arrested activists.

The accord earned the approval of the entire Warsaw Pact, but the Soviet Union, Poland and Hungary have shown themselves to be significantly more willing to put it into practice than the four other East-bloc allies.

Shared responsibility

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's directive to the Ministry of Agriculture Monday to compensate farmers whose crops were severely affected by the recent wave of frost will surely be very appreciated and welcomed not only by the farmers who are directly affected but also by the whole country. Food security stands out as the most prominent consideration that any people would like to be assured of and protected. Seen in this vein, the protection of our farmers and their produce is a high priority objective for Jordan and Jordanians. King Hussein's personal intervention to help out our distressed farmers whose produce was damaged recently by an act of nature is most timely and constitutes the kind of compassion and consideration that the country has become used to from the King.

As for the future, concerned authorities should begin to educate people, especially farmers, on the need to insure their produce against not only frost waves but also against other hazards that may affect their farms. It is unfortunate that we in Jordan have yet to develop the culture of insurance to cover the many risks and hazards that we encounter in our daily lives. Perhaps this is a common characteristic of all developing countries. But as Jordan has made great strides to graduate from the developing countries club — intellectually, economically and politically — it is high time that the government and the insurance companies operating in Jordan begin a campaign to instill in our society the concept of resorting to insurance to make good unexpected losses and failures.

Over and above the reliance on insurance policies, farmers need to learn the most up-to-date art of prevention of damage to their crops from unseen conditions including weather. It would have been in order if the Ministry of Agriculture had issued warnings to farmers whenever weather conditions are projected to cause havoc to their crops. The country could have saved a lot of damage in the past few weeks had our farmers been cautioned through television and radio about the imminent dangers from the kind of frost wave that swept the country recently. In fact this kind of prevention policy can be applied to all of other industries as well to alleviate the suffering, both material and emotional, that they may face now and then. Still prevention is most apt when it comes to agriculture and it is high time for all concerned to act together to apply this cure before tragedy hits us again.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper said Tuesday that King Hussein's visits to the ministries of agriculture, energy and tourism on Monday and his meetings with their officials gave a real boost to their efforts and breathed more confidence in their work. The paper said that the King has set an example for all senior officials to maintain vigilance over and follow up the work of their subordinates through constant visits and meetings. Public administration work requires such practice which in turn helps to improve performance and boost production, the paper added. In his tour, the King passed directives to the staff of the three ministries urging them to double their efforts to serve the public and he also was briefed on their activities and programmes. The King's encouragement to the staff to maintain close contacts with foreign and international organisations is bound to enhance such programmes and activities and promote the ministries' performance in their respective fields.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments on Washington's fresh demands sent to the Palestine Liberation Organisation to be met as a condition before the PLO-U.S. dialogue could continue. The Reagan administration had asked that the PLO recognise U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, but the new administration of George Bush seems to be making new demands, says Mahmoud Al Kimawi. He says no one knows what Washington will be demanding from the PLO from now on for the sake of pursuing the dialogue of which only one session has been held so far. But what we know for sure is that the U.S. administration has not asked Israel for any concession, nor has it ever questioned its policy of killing Palestinians and demolishing their homes, the writer continues. He says that no U.S. president has yet asked the Israelis why they refuse a permanent peace and an Israeli pullout from the occupied Arab territories; and Washington itself has not yet given any pledge to support an international conference to establish peace in the Middle East.

Al Dastour daily commented on King Hussein's tour of a number of government ministries to pass directives on a number of matters and to be briefed on their programmes and accomplishments. The paper said that the visits display the very strong ties that bind the ruler with his people, and manifests his keen interest and concern over their well being and their activities. The King demonstrated his care by ordering the Ministry of Agriculture to work out a programme for compensating farmers for their loss of crops in the recent wave of frost that damaged large areas of vegetables and fruit, the paper noted. It said that the King's directives to senior officials at the ministries of energy and tourism clearly manifested his desire to see them expand the sphere of their programmes to benefit the country and the Jordanian people.

Sawt Al Shaab daily also dwelt on the King's visit and his directives to the heads of the three ministries and their senior officials. The King's decision to provide compensation to the farmers for their losses sustained as a result of the wave of frost reflects his care for his subjects; and his directives to the ministry staff demonstrates his keenness on promoting the work of the agricultural sector, the paper said. The King's directives in general, the paper added, were aimed at enabling government agencies to provide better and more efficient service, and at the same time boost their work to serve the national interest.

By Stanley Cohen

FOR A LONG time now — perhaps since the beginning of the occupation in 1967, at least for the last 10 years and certainly since the start of the intifada in December 1987 — a powerful myth has been circulating under the title of "The Rule of Law in Israel." The myth goes something like this:

"Israel is and always has been a functioning liberal democracy. All the standard elements of the rule of law are honoured: civil rights, freedom of speech, an independent judiciary, due process, the right to appeal... and so on. True, there are occasional lapses and departures but these are invariably brought to light and the system contains mechanisms to rectify its own errors. As to the occupied territories — well, that's an entirely different story. Everyone understands that the rule of law ends beyond the Green Line. Military regulations, the security situation, public safety, the needs of the army and settlers, varied interpretations of International Law — all this means that conventional notions of justice and human rights must be suspended pending a political solution."

This myth is disseminated in different circles for quite different reasons. Government supporters who understand well

enough the manifest absurdity of the claim that the whole occupation and the repression of the uprising are being conducted according to the rule of law, find the myth useful to justify anything. "Here," things are fine, but "over there" we can't afford the luxury of legality.

More important, though, opponents of the government also find the myth helpful and are responsible for working out its most elaborate forms. Thus politicians from left-liberal parties, civil liberties groups, liberal lawyers and academics all employ the myth as a criticism of the government. How dreadful that these official illegalities and violations of human rights are occurring: detention without trial, collective punishment, deportation. They will only stop when a political solution is found (ending the occupation, as some will even concede). Meanwhile, the legal system can only be used to restrain or delay the more gross violations (for example by appeals to the Supreme Court). All we can do now is be vigilant — and set up civil rights bodies to monitor and condemn these violations according to the high standards that apply here in Israel.

These critics all earnestly repeat this story to themselves, their students and colleagues and

to credulous journalists and visitors from abroad. It's a good story — and it even contains a kernel of truth. No one can seriously deny that the major lines of the rule of law are present in Israel — just to the same extent that they are absent in the occupied territories. But beyond this, the myth bears no relationship at all to reality. An intelligent schoolchild will surely spot the following points:

Police: do not members of the same Israeli Police Force responsible to the same Minister of Police, also serve in the territories? And what about the police operating in East Jerusalem and its surrounding villages and refugee camps? (Is East Jerusalem "here" or "there"?) Then there are the Border Police (who are responsible for some of the worst "irregularities" in the past year) — aren't they formally part of the Israeli Police rather than the army?

Courts: hasn't it been the regular Israeli courts that have judged occupation cases — land confiscation, deportation, house demolition, appeals — for the last 20 years? And surely these same courts deal with the crimes (killings, assaults, harassment) by the (illegal) settlers from the territories.

Ministry of Justice: there might be some members of the

ministry staff who deal only with occupation matters — but surely most senior people (certainly the same attorney general and minister) are responsible for both sides of the Green Line? And how about documents such as the Landau Commission's report on the General Security Service: did this permit "reasonable force" in torturing only people with mailing addresses across the border?

Prison and detention: what about those prisons in the territories — Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron, J'naid, Gaza — which hold some 1,600 prisoners and are run not by the army, but the regular Israeli Prison Service? Then there are prisons and detention centres in Israel — Ansar III, Atlit, Ramla, Megiddo, the Russian Compound — which hold (illegally) at least 3,000 Palestinians from the territories, but also belong to the regular Prison Service.

Settlers: yes, they live in the territories, but aren't they subject entirely to the normal Israeli legal system?

Army: surely these are ordinary Israeli citizens — not foreign mercenaries — who are serving in the occupying forces? And are not some of these soldiers (the doctors in places like Dahariya, the lawyers who staff the military courts, those in the Education Corps who give lec-

tures on subjects like democracy) the very same people who think that the occupation is "out there"? And so on.

It would be an insult to anyone's intelligence to "prove" these points with detailed evidence. There is only one simple fact to remember: the Israeli state is a single entity. For over half the 40 years since its existence, it has directly controlled a directly adjacent territory over which it claims sovereignty. The notion that a state's claim to the rule of law can be divided geographically is pure fantasy.

Why, then, don't Israeli liberals see this? (The right, of course, with its concept of "Greater Israel" has long denied the myth). Some perhaps, might genuinely miss the point. Most, I'm sure, understand things well enough — but need a morally convenient way to evade some tricky political and professional choices. The myth allows for business as usual. So self-congratulation tempered with moderate criticism about Israel; apparently radical criticism about the occupation. Such critics are not even consistent. If they really mean what they say, they have only two choices: working politically to end the occupation or working professionally to deny the legitimacy they give to the occupation.

Meantime, my colleagues in the Law Faculty here at Mount Scopus continue teaching about "the rule of law" — while in parts of East Jerusalem, or villages and refugee camps a few hundred metres away, people are being shot, beaten up and summarily arrested. Some days you can smell the tear gas from the camps.

At about this time last year, students were awarded their law degrees at the annual graduation ceremony. It was the usual pleasant occasion, attended by students, lecturers and proud parents. Fine words were addressed to the graduates by a Supreme Court judge: the rule of law was the principle that transcended all else. On January 25th, this year's graduation will take place (and there will be similar rituals at other universities, at the Bar Association, in the Knesset, in the courts). The rule of law will again be sanctified. I hope that I'm wrong, but I doubt that any of the speakers will refer to 10-year-old children being killed, to the conditions in Ansar or to women being beaten in detention. To do so would be bad taste or — the worst offence of all — to bring politics into academic life. The writer is professor of criminology at the Hebrew University. His article is reprinted from The Jerusalem Post.

Polish party agreement could lead to historic compromise

By John Daniszewski
The Associated Press

GDANSK, Poland — The decision of the Communist Party to reverse a seven-year stand against the Solidarity trade union and offer legalisation under negotiated terms opens the possibility of a compromise unprecedented in the history of the Communist world.

Although it is far too early to forecast whether such a far-reaching agreement can be obtained, Communist leaders for the first time have offered to negotiate with an independent, popular opposition movement on the structure of political and social freedoms affecting the entire society.

Unlike the talks with solidarity in 1980, authorities this time openly state that they want to negotiate about the party-dominated political system — to find ways to legalise opposition to the government and to institutional-

ise an opposition in the parliament.

The talks would cover trade unions, the first goal of Solidarity.

But the subjects of associations and clubs, elections, freedom of the press, parliament representation and changes in the constitution also are expected to be part of the talks at the "round table" on Poland's future.

And unlike the Solidarity upheaval of 1980, the government can plausibly say the talks this time are voluntary and not forced by a nationwide series of strikes since the Polish labour scene is mostly quiet at the moment.

Even the normally skeptical Solidarity leader Lech Walesa seemed impressed by the document on trade union and political freedoms issued at the end of a tumultuous party central committee meeting last week.

Referring to the party's strong endorsement of economic, political and social "pluralism," he

said: "It has never happened in the party before. It will mean breaking the monopoly (of power). And that is the point."

The Solidarity national leadership Sunday agreed that the government's expression of willingness to legalise the union removed the last obstacle to the talks. A Solidarity spokesman said they should start "very soon," perhaps in a matter of days or a few weeks.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The union was playing down what could be perceived as a moment of victory and vindication after the experience of martial-law jailings and trials, and the harsh rhetoric toward Walesa and Solidarity that continued until last fall.

But Walesa said it was too early to celebrate. "I ask that there be no euphoria," he told a crowd of about

5,000 supporters outside St. Brygida's church in Gdansk on Sunday.

Much skepticism remains in the Solidarity ranks, based on past experience. The union had a signed agreement with the government in August 1980 guaranteeing its right to exist.

But the accord proved meaningless when Polish leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski called out his troops and interned thousands of Solidarity members in the Dec. 13, 1981, martial-law crackdown.

There are suspicions now that the government wants an accord with Solidarity only in order to calm a huge wave of public unrest that appears to be building thanks to another year of steep inflation and lack of consumer goods in stores.

Polish living standards dropped sharply in the early 1980s and still have not climbed back to the level of a decade ago.

Walesa warned in a television

debate in November that Poland is in danger of falling further and further behind the rest of Europe.

He argues for labour calm because widespread strikes would be harmful to the economy. But at the same time he stresses that the union must have the right to strike in extreme cases, and that he will not sign any agreement with the government at the cost of Solidarity's independence.

A government source demanding anonymity said authorities are counting on Solidarity to help keep the peace and expressed confidence that if the union and authorities form a partnership, they will be able to keep factories calm so that planned economic reforms have a chance to work.

Solidarity's national spokesman, Janusz Onyszkiewicz, said Sunday that the union "will not be pushed into the role of the police or a fire brigade" to put out strikes.

But he said, "we want to dis-

cuss economic reform. ... If it works then there will be no need to make a general strike. But that does not mean that all local issues can be resolved smoothly without some kind of action."

The dramatic change of course by the Polish government can be explained in several ways.

In addition to the specter of strikes larger than the two waves of labour unrest that shocked the country last year, there has been a building consensus — encouraged by Poland's powerful Roman Catholic church — that the country will never move forward without compromise between the government and opposition.

And some credit has to be given to Walesa's performance on the nationwide TV debate in November. While coming out strongly for reinstating Solidarity, Walesa also convinced authorities that he is a responsible leader who does not want to plunge Poland into a wave of confrontation and strikes.

Not another neurotic

By Steve Lohr

LONDON — Max von Sydow knew he was wanted to be in "Pelle the Conqueror" by the time he had read just 25 pages of the screenplay.

The script was a page-turner, he recalled, but more important was the character he was being asked to play, that of an ordinary individual who, in the course of the story, displays the full range of human emotion — the kind of role, he says, that comes his way too rarely in Hollywood.

"Most of the parts I get are fanatics or strange and neurotic characters," said von Sydow, whose Hollywood credits include Jesus in George Stevens' film "The Greatest Story Ever Told" and the title role in William Friedkin's "Exorcist".

"So when I read the script for 'Pelle,' I felt this was something I was looking for," the 59-year-old Swedish actor explains.

"Pelle: the Conqueror," in a sense, was looking for von Sydow as well. The Danish director Bille August viewed the part of the Swedish labourer Lasse Karlsson, played by von Sydow, as "the pivotal role in the film."

And he said, "I had Max von Sydow in mind for the part from the moment I began writing the script." The combination has produced an unusual film and a memorable performance from von Sydow, both of which have attracted widespread critical acclaim. The Danish film won the Golden Palm for best film at this year's Cannes Festival. And at the first annual European Film Awards in Berlin last month, von Sydow won the best-actor prize for his performance in "Pelle the Conqueror," receiving a Felix, a statuette intended to be the European equivalent of Hollywood's Oscar.

In it, von Sydow plays the impoverished and aging widower, Lasse, who emigrates from southern Sweden to Denmark at the turn of the century with his young son, Pelle, his few worldly possessions, his misery and his hopes for a better life. On the ship to the

Danish island of Bornholm, where Lasse once worked when he was young, in better times, he fills Pelle with his romantic memories. According to Lasse's recollections, their new home-to-be is an Edenic isle, compared to rural Sweden.

In this flush of optimism, Lasse feels compelled to pass on to Pelle a nugget of fatherly insight, which is more wishing than wisdom, running contrary to Lasse's life experience. "You're still young, Pelle," he says. "You can conquer the world." The vignette explains the title of the film, a story of a father and his son. The time — the start of the 1900s — and the place — a Danish farm — are painstakingly re-created.

Besides the father-and-son theme, there are stories of love and lust, betrayal and retribution involving other characters, giving the two-and-a-half-hour movie an epic quality and showing the hardship and injustice of the semi-feudal society of the time. The movie is based on a book that was a clarion call for Scandinavian socialism. First published in 1906, the four-volume novel "Pelle the Conqueror" was intended by its author, Martin Andersen Nexø, to be a Bible of the Danish working class. August and the producer Per Holst, who obtained the film rights to the novel in 1983, decided that the novel was not manageable as a single movie. Instead, they chose to focus on the first volume. And in that volume, Nexø was still telling a story. It was his feel for historical narrative and his selection of everyday people as characters, that explain why Nexø has occasionally been compared to Charles Dickens.

Von Sydow was raised in Lund in southern Sweden, the same part of the country his character, Lasse, emigrates from. In his dressing room in London's Old Vic Theatre, where he was playing Prospero in Jonathan Miller's staging of "The Tempest" last month, von Sydow recalled growing up in the 1930s and seeing the way people lived in the countryside, which had changed little from the period in the film. "So I

felt as though I knew Lasse Karlsson," von Sydow said.

The actor was given considerable leeway by the director in shaping the role of Lasse. Though August, a Dane, speaks Swedish, he left much of Lasse's dialogue spoken in a Swedish rural dialect, to von Sydow. "The inflection and the words were up to me," he said.

Rural labourers like Lasse led a life that was barely better than slavery, working on yearly contracts, which paid them so little that only the most frugal could save enough to move on to something better. They were victims of social injustice — poorly housed, poorly fed and powerless.

"That is why they were treated so badly," von Sydow said. "That is why the manager on Stone Farm can treat Lasse and the others so badly and get away with it."

Shortly after Lasse and Pelle arrive on Stone Farm, Pelle is whipped by the farm manager's trainee, and Lasse vows to avenge the indignity. Later, Lasse starts to confront the trainee but backs down, realising that to do so could threaten his meager livelihood.

Watching this, Pelle has his faith in his father badly shaken and bursts into tears. "Lasse is a weak man and socially, he is on the absolutely lowest level," von Sydow said. "But he sometimes gets carried away and tries to do bigger than he is, like in the scene with the trainee."

"At the same time," he continued, "Lasse is totally loyal, and he truly loves his son. So what you get is this wonderful pattern of many emotions between the father and the boy."

One of von Sydow's favourite scenes takes place on the spring morning of Pelle's birthday. The two share a handful of "real Swedish strawberries" that Lasse had planted months before, and he hands Pelle a little, tissue-wrapped parcel containing a pocket knife. "It's just a poor man's gift," Lasse says. Not to Pelle, who bugs his father with gratitude and affection.



Von Sydow: "I felt this was something I was looking for."

For his part, von Sydow was a bit wary at the outset of his co-star, Pelle Hvenegaard, a 13-year-old Copenhagen schoolboy selected after a yearlong search auditioning 4,000 hopefuls. (In a striking coincidence, Hvenegaard had been after the character in the novel, which his mother was reading during her pregnancy.)

"Pelle" spans a year at Stone Farm, but the film was shot in about seven months on a farm a couple hours' drive from Copenhagen. For much of the time, the company of three dozen people lived in several small farm huts. The forceful scenes of the harsh, snowy desolation on the Danish coast in the film were enhanced considerably by the winter of 1986-87. "We were really lucky because we had a spectacular winter that year in Denmark," von Sydow recalled.

At the end of the movie, Pelle is given an opportunity to climb up a rung in the Stone Farm

social hierarchy, when he is offered a job as a trainee. Lasse is overjoyed at this shred of good fortune.

"The father feels that through his son's success he will finally get some power," von Sydow says. "In his limited circumstances, it is as much as he can hope for."

But his brief hopes are dashed when Pelle, sensing that there must be a brighter, more adventurous world beyond the gates of Stone Farm, decides to shun the trainee's job and leave the farm to face an unknown future. Pelle packs to leave, with Lasse helping him. But Lasse tells Pelle he is not going with him, sobbing with emotion, partly because he will miss his son but also for himself, knowing that by not going along he is admitting the inevitable: Stone Farm is the end of the line for Lasse.

"I just love the ending," von Sydow says. — International Herald Tribune.

The displeased coral diver was small beer

By Robert Lamb

LONDON — The Tunisian coral diver had come to the conference of 140 environmentalists from 60 countries hoping to find experts who would know why the coral was dying in the local bay. He held up a withered branch of coral and begged to be told why his livelihood was becoming extinct there in Tabarka, a small tourist town near the border with Algeria. But answer came there none.

Oh, one Italian environmentalist speculated that the coral's creeping death might be caused by illicit dumping of toxic chemicals rejected by a West African country. A Dutchman said it might be caused by the blanket spraying of insecticide intended to halt the recent locust invasion of Tunisia. A Tunisian added that the insecticide had already all but wiped out the bee population; he wasn't surprised to see the coral dying as well.

The coral diver's plight caused scarcely a stir. The reason was that the conference's delegates, mostly from the Third World, had come to this corner of Tunisia anxious to tell the world their own horror stories.

A West African delegate told of whole villages being engulfed by said. A Chilean railed against the environmentally ignorant policies of the Pinochet regime. It was said that in 1988 perhaps as much as one-fifth of the Amazon's rain forest had been put to the torch. A young African lambasted his government's policy of resettling nomads — "the only people who know how to get a living from the desert fringe without destroying it."

Story after story put flesh on the dry bones of the South's environmental crisis. A New Zealand delegate who made an impassioned plea for nations to keep their hands off Antarctica's frozen treasure of resources didn't get much of a hearing.

The recent newspaper reports of illegal logging having led to mud slides that killed hundreds in Thailand, and of the famine in

Sudan partly induced by desertification, served to underline the fact that in the poor countries — home to more than three-quarters of the human race — environment is a matter of sheer survival.

In by far the best address to the conference, Rann Leger, a Canadian aid official, said the Third World's ecological debt crisis was incomparably more serious than the financial crisis. And when the conference broke up into specialist work groups, many participants argued that the two cannot be separated. In their efforts to claw their way out of crushing debt and poverty, these countries were being forced to plunder nature's capital: the forests, grasslands and marine resources. This was no ritual hashing of the wealthy West. The delegates' own governments came in for equally harsh criticism for lamely mimicking patterns of growth that benefit the elites and punish the poor.

The conference in Tabarka was organised by the Environment Liaison Centre International, a Nairobi-based umbrella group of 7,000 so-called non-governmental organisations, and financed by the Nordic countries and Canada. The official purpose was to consider how the World Commission on Environment and Development's 1987 Brundtland report could be made to work.

That commission, headed by Gro Harlem Brundtland, Norway's prime minister, called for a "new era of economic growth" based on staying "within the planet's ecological means." Some delegates made optimistic noises, but there was no getting away from a deep and abiding pessimism, a feeling that matters are going to get a lot worse before there is any hope of general improvement.

"We're still dealing with symptoms, not the causes," said Richard Sandbrook, vice president of the International Institute for Environment and Development. The inequities of the global economy were the underlying reasons for the accelerating des-

truction of the planetary resource base, he said. He reserved his harshest criticism for economics, "an arrogant discipline" which took no account of the quality and stocks of natural resources and the plight of the poor.

Many delegates left Tunisia knowing there would be more stories about landslides, floods and toxic poisons tucked away on the inside pages of our newspapers. And knowing, too, that these tragic incidents would not be seen as evidence of our global self-interest in taking the radical steps advocated by the Brundtland report. The most gloomy scenario is that it's going to take a global catastrophe that hits the West hard before the world moves. It may be ozone depletion and global warming that provide the spur. Or the mass extinction of animal and plant species as tropical forests are rolled back to a handful of fenced-in parks.

As someone involved full-time in the international environmental movement for more than a decade, I have attended dozens of meetings like the one in Tabarka. This was the first time that I came away with the feeling that the problems are so overwhelming that rich and poor alike will have to awake and apply a common global strategy if a catastrophe is to be avoided. We have such a strategy in the Brundtland report's recommendations. Support from Canada, the Netherlands and the Scandinavian countries is keeping the report on the world's agenda.

There is, however, just a ghost of a chance that public opinion, North and South, will reach a point where governments will have to tackle the root causes of environmental impoverishment. Something radical has to be done.

The writer is director of the independent Television Trust for the Environment, which is co-sponsored by the U.N. Environment Programme and Central Independent Television PLC. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Toys could be deadly in N. Ireland

By Paul Majendie

BELFAST — The deadly rocket launcher pecked out from behind a garden wall. Trigger-tense, the patrol braced for an IRA attack. Then a 10-year-old boy ran out into the street waving a toy pistol. The British soldiers gasped with relief and a tragedy was narrowly averted.

The "rocket launcher" was a toy held by another child. That recent brush with death has prompted Northern Ireland police to issue a heartfelt appeal to parents — keep your children off the streets if they are going to play with such realistic toy guns.

"No child has ever been killed (in this way) but it has only been by good fortune and quick thinking," a police spokesman said.

Police also made their point forcefully by producing a photo display of real and toy guns and asking the public if they could spot the difference between the deadly weapon and the plaything.

Almost 3,000 people have died in the 20-year-old battle by Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas to oust Britain from Northern Ireland.

To many children, the mean little backstreets of Belfast and Londonderry have always been full of soldiers patrolling through

burned-out ghettos blasted by IRA car bombs.

"A lingering media image from one of the 20th century's longest-running guerrilla conflicts is of six-year-old children pelting armoured vehicles with stones.

Police say parents should hammer home a vital message to their children out on the streets where IRA snipers lie in wait for passing patrols — the killing fields are not playing fields.

"Children are innocent and do not appreciate the dangers involved whether they are playing cowboys and Indians or soldiers and terrorists."

Police want to avoid being labelled as Dickensian scrooge figures — "you try not to be the person who wants to stop a child getting his Christmas present," the police spokesman said.

But the recent near-tragedy on the streets on Londonderry, Northern Ireland's second largest city, showed how thin is the line between a game and death in the gutter.

"A patrol spotted a rocket launcher being pointed at it from behind a garden wall," the spokesman said.

"As the members of the patrol prepared to react to the threat, a

young boy was seen to run from a nearby house carrying a handgun.

"The members of the patrol fortunately realised the significance of this and discovered that the rocket launcher was a three-foot toy carried by another 10-year-old."

"Both toys were very realistic. Indeed, the rocket launcher was particularly lifelike. The highly disciplined reaction of the patrol averted a possible tragedy."

The RPG-7 rocket launcher is a favourite weapon of the IRA. One street in a west Belfast nationalist ghetto has been renamed RPG-7 Avenue by locals.

Between some housing estates, there are ideal "sniper alleys" where gunmen can have an uninterrupted view down a 100-metre corridor.

It is an ideal place to take out "the tailend Charlie," the last man going past on an army patrol, before melting back into the anonymous backstreets.

Police realise that peer pressure among children can have deadly after-effects.

"The young child obviously wants to have a gun that is as realistic as possible. He doesn't want a water pistol," the spokesman said.

Persuading crops to grow, a thought for the future

ONE of Man's long-held ambitions has been to make the desert fertile, creating vast new food resources for the world's increasing population.

The vision remains a fair distance from reality, but a significant signpost is now being erected along that road as scientists work to convert barren, coastal salt flats into viable crop-growing areas. Their strategy is largely to adapt crop-strains by genetic engineering to suit the soil rather than by trying through chemical means to alter the nature of the soil itself.

The project could open up huge tracts of hitherto sterile land for agriculture and livestock rearing. It is estimated that nearly one billion hectares of the world's land surface is affected by salt — an area roughly the size of Canada.

About half the world's farms have been damaged, the problem being particularly severe in arid and semi-arid regions where a

combination of low rainfall and high temperature leads to increasing salinity of soil. In many countries large areas of coastal plains are never cultivated because of the high concentration of salt.

Some plants, however, have been found to flourish in salt flats irrigated only by seawater, and scientists have been developing superstrains of these over the last 20 years at the University of Arizona's Environmental Research Laboratory.

A group of researchers from the American institution now runs a farm for the ruler of Sharjah, one of the seven United Arab Emirates, on 40 hectares of salt flats at Kalha near the Straits of Hormuz. Their work could have a dramatic impact on agriculture in the Gulf region.

Despite a 30 per cent salinity in the soil, the researchers have succeeded in raising a crop of salicornia, also known as saltwort, a succulent once eaten widely in

Europe until cultivated spinach became a dietary preference.

Salicornia is a botanical eccentric. It thrives on salt. It bathes happily in sea water — and it feeds farm animals as well as conventional fodder.

Sixty pure-bred Damascus goats were tried out on a diet of salicornia at Kalha earlier this year. Apparently the goats had no complaints. They gained as much weight from salicornia hay as they had from more orthodox fodder. The Arizona researchers are now hoping for a similar reaction from sheep.

The importance of this work for the Gulf's future agriculture lies in the researchers' claim that a single hectare sown to salicornia could rear up to 20 goats or sheep.

With salt flats stretching from Abu Dhabi in the UAE to Kuwait in the north, the region's potential for livestock farming is considerable. To carry the project forward, research teams have

surveyed other areas of Sharjah and around 2,000 hectares of land in Abu Dhabi.

Other salicornia-growing trials are taking place in Kuwait and Egypt, and one is also planned for Saudi Arabia.

The salicornia strain now being used in places like Kalha, developed by the U.S. Environmental Research Agency, is for commercial reasons a closely-guarded secret. But future growing in saline soils may focus increasingly on conventional crops specially adapted to improve their tolerance to salt.

In the long term, such crops as wheat, cotton, rice, barley, sugarcane and pulses may be persuaded to grow in salt marshes.

Already the British Overseas Development Administration is funding an international effort among research institutions in Britain and Mexico, aimed at producing a strain of wheat as salt-tolerant as salicornia — Lion features.



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Due to speculative trading

Oil prices tumble sharply

ABU DHABI (R) — Speculative trading in the world oil market has sent prices tumbling despite sharply lower output by key Gulf OPEC states, industry sources said Tuesday.

"All Gulf states are sticking to (OPEC output) quotas, but we cannot control everything," said an executive of a state-owned oil company in the Gulf who declined to be named.

Spot market prices for Dubai crude, the Middle East benchmark, fell to \$14.40 per barrel in Tokyo Tuesday, \$1.5 below Friday's level.

The drop was caused by traders taking profits from recent gains. Prices had risen by more than 25 cents since November, when the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed to cut output by nearly 20 per cent in the first half of 1988 to 18.5 million barrels per day (b/d).

Industry sources said OPEC output in the first half of January was about 19 million b/d, with key OPEC producers Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) drastically cutting production.

"We are sacrificing, we are doing what people are expecting us to do... but we are not getting the results," the oil company executive said.

"Outside of OPEC, people are playing with (prices) maybe for their own benefit," he said. Saudi Arabia, OPEC's biggest producer, pumped an average of 4.53 million b/d in the first three weeks of January, just over its

new quota of 4.524 million b/d, industry sources said. In December Saudi Arabia pumped 6.6 million b/d, according to a Reuters survey.

The sources added that most other Gulf producers have also reduced output to around quota levels.

Six Gulf producers — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, the UAE and Qatar — account for two-thirds of total OPEC output under the new pact.

Industry sources say that as they depend heavily on oil revenue they are eager for the pact to hold, to stop prices falling further.

OPEC's last output pact was undermined by quota violations by many of its members. Prices slumped as a result to as low as \$7 a barrel last year.

"The signs so far in January show that Gulf states are keen to adhere to the (quota) agreement," an industry analyst in the Gulf said.

"The amounts of oil to be sold by producer states in February are either lower or at January levels," he added.

Industry sources say Saudi Arabia's export volume to Far East customers in February will be 25 per cent down on January. They said Abu Dhabi, the biggest producer in the UAE, has ordered a 10 per cent cut in

February. Abu Dhabi has produced about the total UAE quota level of 988,000 b/d in January, the sources added.

Dubai, the UAE's second oil producer, produced about 400,000 b/d giving a total UAE figure for the month of about 1.4 million b/d.

The country's output in December was two million b/d, according to a Reuters survey.

OPEC, non-OPEC experts meet today

Meanwhile, OPEC and eight oil producing nations which do not belong to the group will renew a dialogue this week on cooperation to curb output and buoy energy prices.

OPEC has for some time cherished the goal of getting other sellers to help it curb production so as to be able to charge more for oil.

London talks Thursday at the official level will renew a process which was broken off in April. The officials will seek a basis for a joint ministers' meeting and also generate ideas for an accord, OPEC sources said.

"One goal is to prepare the path for an OPEC/non-OPEC ministers' meeting and maybe shape an embryo agreement," an OPEC official said.

"The main idea is to try to arrive at a common view of the market and try to reconcile people's positions on how they see the market developing in terms of demand, supply and prices," he added.

Experts from six OPEC countries — Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Indonesia, Kuwait and Venezuela — will meet in Vienna Wednesday to coordinate the

OPEC positions. A similar gathering of experts from eight non-OPEC countries — Angola, Brunei, China, Colombia, Egypt, Mexico, Malaysia and North Yemen — will also be held in London Wednesday to be followed Thursday by a meeting of both groups.

Representatives from the U.S. states of Texas and Alaska and a Soviet observer will attend the talks.

But Britain and Norway, the North Sea producers, have said they will not. Britain says market forces must set the price of oil. But Nigerian sources said at the weekend that Britain and Norway were almost certainly in contact with participants.

Last April, non-OPEC countries offered to cut their exports by five per cent to help end the world oil glut, provided OPEC also cut excess supply.

OPEC divisions, largely stemming from the Iraq-Iran war, made that impossible then, but on Jan. 1 the group finally introduced new output quotas cutting back about 15 per cent.

A cut by non-OPEC sellers might now depend "on how you see the market," an OPEC source said. "The first thing to do is to check both parties' view of the market situation."

But the official added: "OPEC will try to avoid turning the meeting into a bargaining session. They won't say, what can you offer? It will be more... an attempt to find common ground."

Mehdi Varzi, an oil analyst with London brokers Kleinwort Greaveson, said: "If nothing is proposed it might dent the market's positive feeling... the experts have got to come up with a signal to pave the way for a further meeting."

Despite surprise higher debt

World Bank esteems Moroccan economy

RABAT (R) — Liberal economic policies and export success are winning Morocco plaudits from the World Bank despite a report that its foreign debt, one of the world's highest, is even bigger than previously thought.

The bank's annual list of Third World debtors ranked Morocco in eighth place at the end of 1987 with debts of \$22 billion, up from \$17 billion calculated a year ago for end-1986.

Economic analysts said only part of the gap could be explained by a fall in the value of Morocco's dirham currency against the dollar. Recent finance ministry figures put total debt at no more than \$19 billion.

"These figures have caused a bit of a stir. No one really seems to be able to explain them," a Western diplomat said.

But the figures do not seem to worry World Bank officials who are praising Morocco for briskly reviving its fortunes since it had to reschedule its debts in 1983.

"The strides made by Morocco in reducing the imbalances that have beset the economy since the financial crisis of 1983 can be characterised as nothing less than impressive," Kemal Davis, head of the bank's Morocco section, said recently.

One of the few Arab countries with no oil, Morocco was hit hard by a steep fall in the price of phosphate, its main export, and sharp rises in the dollar and in world interest rates.

Morocco's success since stems from traditional International Monetary Fund (IMF) remedies of liberalisation and austerity, which brought a current account surplus of \$12 million in 1987.

The black ink, based on better trade figures, was the country's first for 13 years, and after a record harvest last year a far bigger 1988 surplus is expected.

Some Arab countries such as Egypt and Algeria have higher debts, but are better off when debt is expressed as a percentage of gross national product or compared to earnings from exports — two measures used by the bank to draw up its debtor list.

As a mark of favour, the bank last month lent Morocco \$200 million to help finance measures to liberalise trade and promote exports.

"The World Bank badly needs a success story and Morocco may just provide it," said a diplomat. "They like the figures the government is producing."

He said cuts in subsidies and reorganisation of the tax base reduced the budget deficit to 6.2 per cent of gross domestic pro-

duct in 1987. It was on target for five per cent in 1988 and 3.2 per cent in 1989.

'But at what price'

But some analysts say Morocco has moved near the top of the World Bank class at too high a sacrifice, increasing poverty and straining social cohesion among the country's 23 million people.

"The government's policies have undeniably had some success, notably increased exports. But at what price?" asked Nadir Ali of the left-wing daily Al Bayane.

"In the countryside it has been to the detriment of social equilibrium," he said.

More criticism

Other critics say the government's only policy is belt-tightening to pay debts that will never be fully cleared.

They add that the government has neglected investment in projects which would have made the economy less dependent on factors outside its control.

"The government has become transfixed by reimbursement and has left itself a very narrow margin of manoeuvre," said professor Habbab Al Malki, an eco-

nomist at Rabat University. He said inflation at under three per cent and economic growth last year of six per cent might bring joy to international creditors, but masked a fragile economic base.

The economy rests on agriculture, which employs 60 per cent of the country's workers, tourism, remittances from migrant workers, and sales of phosphate, used as fertiliser.

Vulnerability

"The economy is very vulnerable... (depending) on rain, on phosphates, and so on. We must also have policies which aim to exploit the development potential of the country," Malki said.

He suggested more investment in labour-intensive industries and more redistribution of income to stimulate domestic demand and help provide jobs for the 150,000 youngsters who enter the labour market each year.

Some economic analysts say the government is starting to do this, having put its own house in order.

"Morocco has lifted the freeze on development projects, but I agree the key issue is now how far will they be prepared to open up," an analyst said.

Turkish unions predict further militancy

ANKARA (R) — Turkey lost a record 2.85 million work days in strikes last year and labour officials predicted further militancy in 1989 if the government does not improve pay and conditions.

"We hope our workers will be given their rights otherwise they will be moved to go on strike. We also hope the government will give us more freedom," Orhan Balaban, a senior official of the main Turk-Is Union Confederation, told Reuters.

Two-year collective bargaining contracts covering 600,000 public workers in unions wanting to cut shackles imposed by the army after the 1980 coup are due for renewal early this year.

Unions in sectors including oil and energy, food, arms production, sugar, road construction, maritime and banking are seeking

wage rises of over 100 per cent to offset inflation. Official and union statistics showed a record 2.85 million workdays were lost in 503 strikes last year, more than double the 1.30 million days and 220 strikes in 1980 during political upheavals that led to the coup in September of that year.

The figures compared with 1.96 million workdays lost in 1987, 234,940 the previous year and 1.40 million in 1977.

"Last year will be remembered by workers as the most dreadful yet from the viewpoint of labour rights in Turkey," Turk-Is head Seyket Yilmaz told reporters.

Yilmaz, whose organisation embraces two-thirds of Turkey's three million unionised workers out of a total workforce of 18 million, said: "Resistance will begin (this year) if wage rises above the current rate of inflation are not secured in talks."

Unions blame conservative prime minister Turgut Ozal's Motherland Party, whose five-year term ends in 1992, for their problems.

Grievances include inflation, now at an eight-year high of nearly 90 per cent, a low minimum monthly wage, complex strike rules and a ban on unions engaging in political activity.

The Geneva-based International Labour Organisation has been critical of curbs on unions in Turkey, which applied in April 1987 for full membership of the European Community.

The government, fearing a strike wave before municipal elections set for March 26, agreed to a basic 170 per cent wage rise over two years for 45,000 coal miners in November.

But all 10,200 workers at the major state-run Seka paper firm have been on strike since Sept. 6 to back demands for 270 per cent

rises. Union sources said the average salary of a Seka worker was equivalent to 35 cents an hour, compared with \$1.25 in 1980, because of the Turkish lira's steady decline in value.

The government in 1988 raised the minimum monthly wage by 78 per cent to the equivalent of \$70 a month and increased to 18 years from 12 the total time union leaders could serve.

Onder Aker, a consultant to Yilmaz, said calls for constitutional amendments to labour laws by Ozal and parliamentary opposition parties produced no real changes last year.

"The demands of employers have become the provisions of the law over the years. Ozal wants to preserve such conditions and every day they remain in a gain for him," he told the weekly Detteline, published by the mass-circulation daily Hurriyet.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

AMF sues ex-director in Canada

TORONTO (R) — The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) has launched a suit in Canadian courts seeking \$80 million in damages from its former director general, now a Canadian citizen. Filed last month in the Supreme Court of Ontario, the suit alleges Jawad Mahmoud Hashim used the fund's money for his own benefit in foreign-exchange and precious-metal trading. The civil suit also names his wife, Salwa Al Ruzaike, and son, Jafar Jawad Hashim. In 1987 the Iraqi-born economist and politician was found guilty in absentia by an Abu Dhabi court of 47 counts of criminal breach of trust, forgery, use of forged documents and forgery of accounts. The Abu Dhabi court sentenced him to 240 years in prison and fined him \$1.91 million. He was also ordered to pay \$80.5 million to the AMF, the amount now being sought in Canadian courts. The fund promotes economic development and stability of exchange rates among its 21 member states. Hashim was director general of the fund from 1977 to 1982 and had full control of its financial affairs.

Iraq to hold arms fair in April

BAGHDAD (R) — Military hardware from around the world will go on display in Baghdad in April when Iraq stages the Gulf's first arms fair, Baghdad newspapers have said. They quoted Military Industries Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan as saying a total of 61 firms from 18 nations will take part in the five-day fair, which opens April 28. The minister said firms from Eastern and Western Europe, China and Latin America had already said they would take part.

Sharjah reports higher exports

ABU DHABI (R) — A Sharjah trade executive said the August 20 ceasefire between Iran and Iraq boosted the Gulf emirate's exports by 37 per cent in 1988, the official emirates news agency WAM has reported. "The increase is due for several factors, mainly the end of the Iran-Iraq war and the improvement of local and world markets," WAM quoted Said Ahmad Al Jarwan, the director of Sharjah's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as saying. Exports from Sharjah, one of the seven emirates making up the United Arab Emirates, rose to 713 million dirhams (\$192 million) in 1988 from 519 million dirhams (\$140 million) in 1987, WAM reported.

Japan to build fast cargo ship

TOKYO (R) — Japan will soon start development of a gas turbine-powered cargo ship it hopes will be able to reach speeds up to 100 kilometres per hour, a transport ministry spokesman has said. He said a working model of the ship, to be known as the Techno Super Liner, would be finished within five years and a full-scale vessel in about 10 years. Such a ship would take three days to travel from Tokyo to the west coast of the United States, compared to 10 days by current liners travelling at around 20 knots, and would be faster than truck transport to some destinations in Japan, it added.

Cyprus, Malta get EC grants, loans

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) has approved five-year development aid packages for Cyprus and Malta worth a total \$113 million, diplomats said. Both Mediterranean islands have association agreements with the EC and are seen as possible future candidates for membership of the 12-nation group. The diplomats said EC foreign ministers agreed to give Cyprus grants and loans totalling 62 million European Currency Units (ECUs) (\$70 million). They are intended to benefit both the Greek and Turkish communities on the divided island. Malta will receive a similar aid package worth 38 million ECUs (\$43 million). Cyprus will be getting less than the 44 million ECUs (\$50 million) it received under the last programme while aid to Malta will rise from 29.5 million ECUs (\$33.3 million). Both new packages include cash to help set up joint ventures between EC firms and those from the two islands.

Turkish-Soviet trade to increase

ANKARA (AP) — A Soviet embassy official has said Turkey and the Soviet Union plan to more than double their mutual trade volume this year. Viktor Litvinov, the Soviet trade counselor here, told a news conference that the volume rose to \$700 million worth in 1988 from \$476 million in 1987. He said there were plans to increase the volume this year to \$1.5 billion. He also said the two countries were striving for a more balanced trade. He said Turkish imports from the Soviet Union increased to \$300 million in 1988 from \$170 million in 1987. Turkish imports registered at \$400 million, up from \$307 million a year earlier. Litvinov said the Soviet Union ordered 12 ships from Turkey this month, an \$80-million order. He also said that a Turkish construction company began to build two health and resort centres in the Caucasus in October. Litvinov said another Turkish construction company, Enka, would soon start the construction of a \$1,000-bed health centre and the refurbishing of the Petrovsky Trade Centre in Moscow. The two projects are estimated to cost around \$80 million.

ILO: Unemployment of women stays high

GENEVA (R) — Unemployment in many nations declined in 1987 but women often continued to fare worse than men in efforts to find work, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said Tuesday. A press release ahead of publication of the ILO year book of labour statistics said jobless rates fell in 31 of 48 countries surveyed by the Geneva-based U.N. agency.

Among industrial nations, unemployment rates dropped from 6.9 per cent to 6.1 in the United States, from 11.7 to 10.6 in Britain, from 10 to nine per cent in Canada and from 12.3 to 11.9 per cent in Belgium.

Japan's rate remained stable at three per cent, as did Switzerland's at 0.8 per cent, the survey showed.

A number of countries experienced an increase although the rises were generally slight. They included France where the rate went from 10.4 to 10.6 per cent, Ireland from 18.2 to 19 and Italy from 11.1 to 11.9.

The survey found that women's unemployment rates in 1987 were lower than in 1986 although still higher than for men.

Exceptions included Ireland (14 per cent for women and 19 per cent for men), Malta (three and five), Finland (four and six), Venezuela (seven and 10), Britain (eight and 12) and South Korea (two and four).

Japan and Sweden had the same three per cent rate for men and women, according to the ILO, which was set up to promote social justice and improve workers conditions worldwide.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 1989 Central Bank official rates				
U.S. dollar	Buy	Sell	French franc	78.4 78.8
Pound Sterling	488.0	490.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	383.8 385.7
Deutschmark	868.0	878.3	Dutch guilder	236.4 237.6
Swiss franc	266.8	268.1	Swedish crown	78.1 78.5
	315.6	317.2	Italian lire (for 100)	36.4 36.6
			Belgian franc (for 100)	126.6 128.2

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.7795/7805	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1855/65	Canadian dollar	
	1.8248/55	Deutsche marks	
	2.0595/0605	Dutch guilders	
	1.5450/57	Swiss francs	
	38.20/24	Belgian francs	
	6.2130/80	French francs	
	1338/1339	Italian lire	
	126.63/73	Japanese yen	
	6.2300/50	Swedish crowns	
	6.6250/6310	Norwegian crowns	
	7.0730/80	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	408.10/408.60	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Strong overseas buying of resources stocks turned the market around after a weak start. The All Ordinaries index rose 1.5 to 1,524.7.

TOKYO — Lower oil prices and a stronger yen pushed prices to a record close, as fears eased of inflation and higher interest rates. The Nikkei index rose 224.8 to 31,557.68.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed higher after another day of widely fluctuating prices. The Hang Seng index ended up 3.5 at 2,901.03.

SINGAPORE — Concern at news that Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad had a coronary by-pass operation sent prices down. The Straits Times industrial index closed 8.32 points lower at 1,087.68.

BOMBAY — The exchange was closed for trading to let brokers complete work on pending settlements.

FRANKFURT — Prices opened higher in lively trading but fell from early highs on profit-taking. An easier tone on Wall Street and the weaker dollar had little impact. At 1045 GMT the DAX index was up 9.52 at 1,327.73.

ZURICH — Shares closed steady to firmer as Swiss interest rates eased from recent highs. Turnover was still low. The all share Swiss index rose 2.1 to 964.7.

PARIS — Prices extended gains in quiet midday trading in the first session of the new account.

LONDON — Shares moved to their day's highs as the dollar firmed after Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan said inflation was too high and should be reduced. At 1440 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 13.5 at 1,938.2.

NEW YORK — Blue chips continued to gain in mid-morning along with the dollar, which was buoyed by Greenspan's remarks suggesting interest rates would stay firm. The Dow was up eight at 2,227.

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REPUBLIC DAY

To mark the Republic Day of India, a flag-hoisting ceremony will take place on Thursday, January 26, 1989, at 10.00 a.m. at the Embassy of India, First Circle, Jabal Amman. All Indian nationals are cordially invited to attend.

